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SOME THOUGHTS

Settling into Richmond has been great. Apparently I gave the impression in the last issue that I was less than happy - and that is hardly the case. I've been having a hard time writing my "column" the past several issues. Partly cause suddenly I just haven't felt like telling the world every single last thought that I have had. And a lot of that has been because I've gotten used to a certain tone in which I generally write - and when I can't find the words within that tone it doesn't feel right. So with my initial move to Richmond I found myself dealing with all of these frustrating things that I didn't really want to deal with, nor talk about - like money, and needing an income, and listening to the radio in my car too much and having a TV around more than I like - but I also didn't really find the right tone to criticize or comment about these things. Consequently my tone sounded less than happy - but only cause I was in the midst of a major adjustment. Having sorted through all of that - I'm now really excited at where I find myself. I got a rad job that I really love (not something you hear too often). I'm working in a photo lab at night which is perfect in my eyes. I finally have all of my stuff in one place - and that certainly took a long time. I've got everything except for my darkroom set up. Now that I'm "working" - time has become a big issue and factor once again. Even though I still pretty much have the ability to juggle my schedule to my liking - I do have a schedule that needs juggling - and that is kinda weird. Right now I don't mind it at all. But I can already predict that in a few months I'll start to feel trapped by that schedule and wish for the free time to roam around and travel again. But that isn't in the plans either. For now - I stay put - and I'm okay about that - I kinda feel like it's time to put down the roots - and literally come spring - I expect to be doing a lot of that in the garden.

My favorite things about Richmond so far have been the fact that even in December it's still generally 50-60° during the day. And for my Northern roots - that is unheard of. I consider it a lingering fall season and since that is my very favorite time - I'm savoring it. I'll pay for it come next summer when I'm sweltering in a pool of humid sweat. But for now - the crisp clean mildly cool air rocks my world. My second favorite thing is the post office. It is so stress and hassle free - it is such a relief. In NYC - the post office (any and all of them) were such a nightmare. And since so much of my life revolves around the post office - it sucked. Now - all aspects of the post office are a casual breeze. I've also been taking the time to really

try and get the mail done more timely and write letters to friends I haven't had the time or focus for in a long while and that has been good.

There have been a few shows that have been really awesome. The Stratford Mercenaries and Aus Rotten came to Richmond on November 19th along with Neil and the Tribal War Distro. I managed to get there just in time (having to run out of my work early, phew!) and it was such an intense rush of craziness. It was as if my "home" had come to me - finally. I came to the weird realization that night that if I hadn't moved to Richmond, I would have been in Richmond that night anyway - in the midst of a tour. That was kinda odd. But I didn't have any regrets about it. It was awesome to see such a "punk punky" audience - and it seemed that most of the kids weren't actually from around here. A lot of folks traveled from Philly and Baltimore and as usually happens at the raddest of shows - there were people from all over the place and I was so excited to see old friends and meet a few people I'd never met, that the whole night was a spastic rush about disoriented contexts and chaos in the best manner. It's the kind of night that goes by in a frenzy and then at the end of it all - you ask yourself what happened - and why don't I feel like I had a really good long conversation with any of the 10 or 20 people I would have liked to talk to individually all night long? This was the first time that I actually got to see the Stratford Mercenaries, having missed them earlier this year and it was very heart moving to hear "Big A Little A" from the mouth of it's originator. And likewise hearing "Tube Disaster" from Aus Rotten with both Steve and Neil joining in - was pretty cool as well. But perhaps the best was the disco dancing from Gary and Steve at the end of the night. All told - it was a blast and we celebrated with the vegan Chinese and some vegan pumpkin pie. And my heart soared to feel the company of good friends in my new little abode.

I went up to Baltimore recently for the first time. It is hard to believe that I have never ever been there - though I have driven through at least 50 times - I've never stopped or attended a show. So when Sean Goblin and Angel told me their band A/Political was playing with Anti-Product and it was on my day off - I decided it was high time to get up there and get a good dose of my beloved punk rock. It was a small show - but still very cool. It was in a hall and it had that cool atmosphere of a convention - where just about everyone had a table set up - either with information (IWW Party or Animal Rights) or zines, records, tapes and patches for sale. Food Not Bombs had food to eat and there were some political oriented movies to watch. I thought that it was cool to have so much more than just bands - and it made me wonder if people would come to such a gathering if you called it a convention and didn't have bands. Probably not. But I don't think that anyone would disagree that those aspects are the very things that make it all worthwhile. It's been a long time since I've seen Anti Product. In fact I can't actually remember when I last saw them - but it was at least a year ago. So that was very cool - they were amazingly awesome - super tight and full of the frenzied energy. I still love the way they initiate a dialog about their ideas. They remind me more and more of Nausea - and that too makes my heart soar. It is still a favorite thing of mine to just show up at a show where I have friends who wouldn't expect me to be in that particular place - it's a very cool feeling.

From Ashes Rise were set to play a house show in December and I was all excited about seeing them again and expecting a really good show - only to find that highly disappointing thing that happens where the show consists of the two traveling bands, the person who set up the show and 2 people who live in the house with like 3 people who actually came just to see that bands. That sucks so bad. It reminds me of the worst days at ABC NO RIO. And it is the very thing that makes you say - why the fuck is it so hard to come and support a show? I just feel bad for the touring bands in cases like that. I've been on both ends and I know it just plain sucks. Most of all it is disappointing and disheartening. House shows are really the best and most ultimate means for holding a punk show. Obviously size limitations



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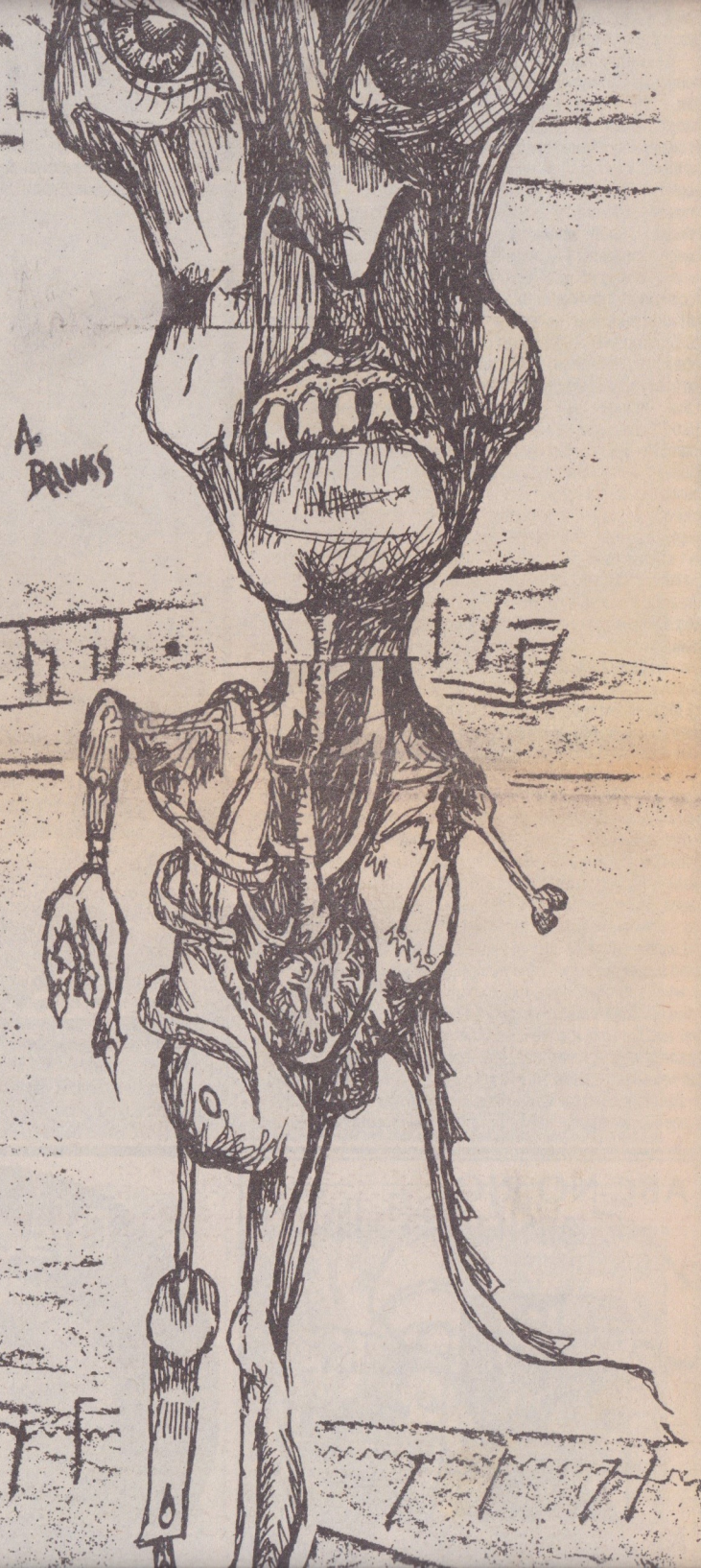
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A new year has come, and it doesn't really feel like a big deal I normally like to make of such an occasion. Time has become so weird. For the past year I've felt like "last year" was what was really two years ago. Somewhere along the line things have started to blend together and the years are indistinguishable. They say the older you get the faster time goes and I think that might be true. At least you have more experiences to remember and categorize and keep track of in your memory and it all runs together. But the occasion of a new year is a good time to start focusing on new projects and things and that is where my head is at. Like I said, I'm adjusting to Richmond, but I seldom go out and do social things. Consequently I find that every time I do - it feel surreal. I find myself in the midst of something and I lose my bearings on where I am, where I live and all of those contextual things. It's kinda odd. It's at those times that all of the places I've been in the past couple years sorta sweep past me and float all around me at the same time. I'm not sure if that means I should get out more often or what. But, it is winter - which is a good time for nurturing oneself and staying home - drinking hot drinks and curling up in a warm and comfortable place and reading a good book and that is what I've been doing. I'm really into the library. I'm into books period. I fight this constant battle with myself over books.



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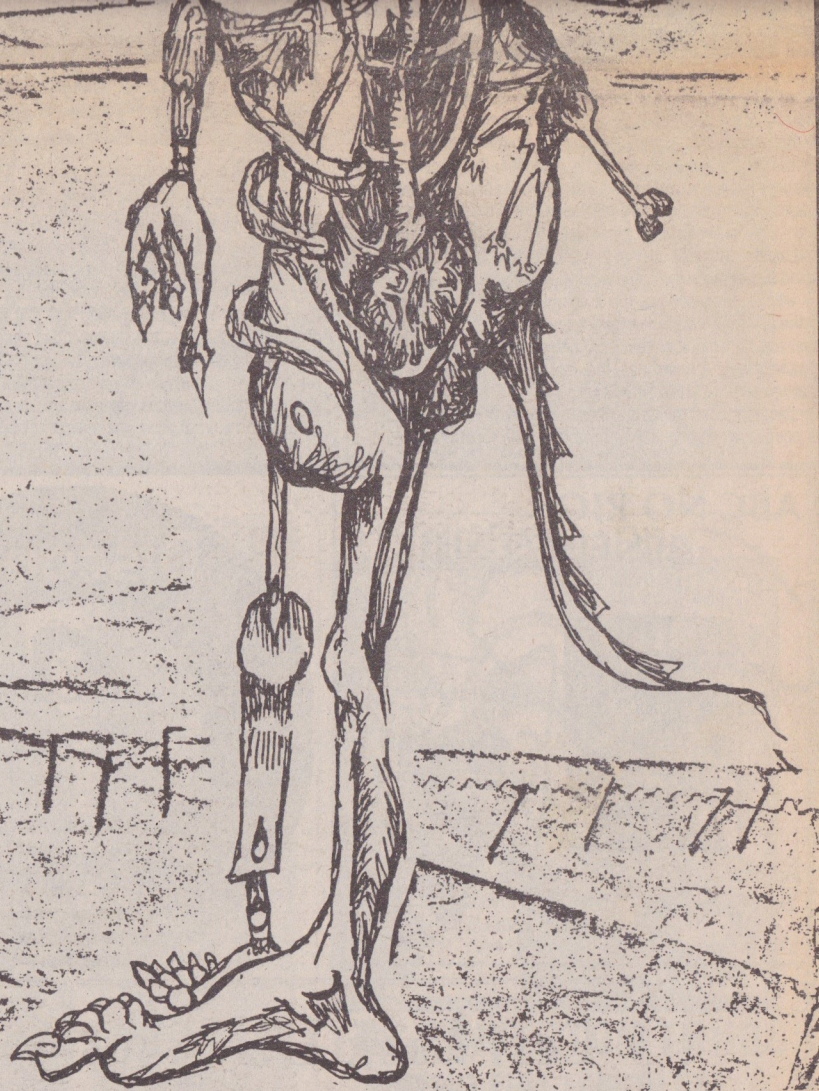
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Some Thoughts continued from page 1

if you look in the card catalog - I mean the computer (sic)). I'm also trying to get my book distro off the ground again - and though it's going slowly, it's starting to take shape as well.

Just when I was starting to get sick to death of all this cultural crap that I was wallowing in - my car broke. So I was driving my friends car with a tape deck and I realized just how much of that societal shit gets pounded into my head on the radio. Of course in one sense I'm enjoying being able to have mild conversations with people about these mainstream topics - but it's really not that rewarding. I think the most interesting thing in regards to that is that I recently volunteered to watch this inane tv program that people are completely swept up in. I think it's retarded and not worth the time, but none the less I watched it. In the weeks that followed I heard endless conversations about the show - which is usual - cause normally I wouldn't even notice. I became aware of how many comments and phrases come directly from that show into daily conversation of everyone and I was totally and utterly revolted. In my cultural study mind - it was interesting to notice it simply because for once I knew the joke. But it was equally interesting to realize that if I didn't know the joke - all this conversation would go right over my head as usual) I wouldn't be in any different spot. Things like this, while essentially meaningless in and of themselves are interesting to me simply because of the impact of programming. So I'm contemplating whether it's worth the expense to put tape deck into my piece of shit car and so I can completely distance myself from the societal world once again.

It seems as though the punk scene is just getting younger and younger, as it always has been. And I'm of course getting older and older. So I've been thinking a lot about age and how things are changing around me. And as has always happened, as fellow punks get older many of them become less involved in the scene. I think that there has always been somewhat of an age breakdown and as people get older they find it hard to get excited about the exact same things they did 5 or 10 years prior. Not that it means they've lost any enthusiasm for the punk scene, but just that areas of interest do change. I no longer find any interest at all in hanging out on street corners drinking 40 oz of beer. For that matter, I don't really drink much at all, nor do I like just hanging out for the sake of hanging out. But I'm just as actively involved in the scene - actually probably more so. Drinking beer on the corner isn't exactly "active participation" in the scene. But anyway - it seems to me that there is this stagnation that happens, and people drift away for a variety of reasons relating to that. Ask yourself if you want to be doing the same exact thing in 5 or 10 years that you are today and unless you are wallowing in a particular state of bliss right now, I doubt you do. In the best case scenarios people drift away as they put more energy towards the causes that they are interested in. In general the punk scene has a tendency to stay at a place that just sorta recycles itself - older people "move on" and younger people join in. It's too bad that there isn't a better integration for "older" people to stay involved and feel that they are still a part of things. Obviously there are plenty of people who are the exception to this. I think that right now there is this odd thing happening where most of the people that I am close to - be it because of age or just that we've been friends for a long period of time - most of these folks are on the higher end of the age bracket (and like I said I think of myself as one of the younger ones cause my friends have always been older) and so many of these people seem to be in this awkward stage of trying to integrate their involvement in punk with their lifestyle overall and figure out how to keep moving forward and continue embracing life and the ideals which they are committed to. And it's a confusing time. It makes me sad to see a lot of people drifting away, and it also makes me excited to see people pursuing avenues of interest that are really

activity for an infinite period of time. In fact for most people it is impossible. And like I said - who really wants to stay in exactly the same place - we want to continue to do more and make more of a change right? But these cycles have always gone in waves - every town has it's ups and downs - every faction of the scene has it's hey days and it's dead days until some individual, or some band, or some outlet is created to fuel a whole bunch of people through another chunk of time. I can feel my place and my energy source changing. I also can recognize that it has been continually changing. I think that any of us that get into a good thing and a good time have a really hard time letting

also find ways to bridge that gap in general. I hate even writing about this kinda thing - just cause it makes me feel old and whiny - but I don't feel old (I still think I'm one of the younger ones) and I'm not complaining or whining or saying that shit sucks and it's all over - or anything of the sort. Actually I think now is an awesome time when things are shifting around a bit and a lot of new energy is being generated. I guess what I'm trying to say is that I think it's important to continue to challenge yourself and not let yourself cling to a lost time of the past nor feel like things are stagnating. That doesn't mean that because you find things changing - you have to leave the punk scene,



Anti-Product in Baltimore 12/13/97

(E) A NETWORK OF FRIENDS

Part of my life at present involves going to college and studying, trying in an attempt to create for myself a life which I will feel happy with. Going back to education at the age of 29 has not been easy but it's a step I'm prepared to take. This in the hope that I can avoid a life of working mundane jobs with little meaning and virtually zero self-gratification.

However, part of the education I've been receiving has not been in the academic sense, but in the "school of Life" sense. This occurrence brought to my attention a subject that is very rarely discussed yet affects a huge number of women throughout the varying types of societies which exist in the world today. It is a subject which is all too often kept in the closet and rarely ventures outside of the four walls which make of the family (usual patriarchal) home. Namely, domestic violence.

One of my classes, our Communications Group, consists of 14 women and 2 men, one of those being myself. A seminar presentation was part of the requirements we all had to take part in. Many people chose subjects they knew something of or had experience in. Some were observational for example, how people treat each other by judgments of appearance (something I could very well relate too!), and others were very personal.

The talk given by one woman in particular was of this nature and left many emotionally shaken or with a cold shiver running down their spine after the presentation. Some were in tears. Domestic violence, as I say, affects a great number of women. The women in my class were from varying backgrounds, primarily in their 30s and 40s and divorced or separated. Women who perhaps for the first time were gradually taking back control and destiny of their own lives. No matter what political stance you may hold, domestic violence is a subject which overcomes all boundaries. It is an aberration of our society which is too readily accepted as "normal".

The words this woman used in her talk, the simple dialogue spoken to explain how a marriage, originally "made in heaven", turned into one of violence and fear gives rise to such anger and emotion it's hard to explain and put into words.

The talk, as I've mentioned, touched upon everyone's feelings within the room. It brought to me surface feelings and experiences many of the other women had also known or recognized. In the discussion that ensued, the emotions that I witnessed, the stories each woman had to tell, left my mind in a spin. One group of women. So many tales of violence. How much other violence and abuse was going on out there? Now?

These people are women. Human beings. Everyday people with everyday jobs with everyday lives. People who pass you in the street. People who hold no particular bearing on your own life yet many of these women have at some point been subjected to varying levels of physical or mental abuse. That so many are trapped in relationships or environments that they are afraid, be it mentally, physically, financially or emotionally to communicate to someone, anyone, or to leave their husband, lover, home or children, exposes the power and domination men can have over females.

It is fucked. It really is a fucked up situation and I despair power, control, religion, all aspects that help keep women in an unequal position, all components that help preserve and maintain men's views of how "life" should be. Traditions which do nothing to help bring people around to respect, appreciate and treat women as equals and human beings.

The fact that so many women are scared, scared to bring attention to their plight for fear of reprisal or of losing the children, leaves them in a situation few can imagine. One I certainly can only try to. That some women believe that it is their fault for being a victim!

are interesting to me simply because of the impact of protesting. So I'm contemplating whether it's worth the expense to put tape deck into my piece of shit car and so I can completely distance myself from the societal world once again.

It seems as though the punk scene is just getting younger and younger, as it always has been. And I'm of course getting older and older. So I've been thinking a lot about age and how things are changing around me. And as has always happened, as fellow punks get older many of them become less involved in the scene. I think that there has always been somewhat of an age breakdown and as people get older they find it hard to get excited about the exact same things they did 5 or 10 years prior. Not that it means they've lost any enthusiasm for the punk scene, but just that areas of interest do change. I no longer find any interest at all in hanging out on street corners drinking 40 oz of beer. For that matter, I don't really drink much at all, nor do I like just hanging out for the sake of hanging out. But I'm just as actively involved in the scene - actually probably more so. Drinking beer on the corner isn't exactly "active participation" in the scene. But anyway - it seems to me that there is this stagnation that happens, and people drift away for a variety of reasons relating to that. Ask yourself if you want to be doing the same exact thing in 5 or 10 years that you are today and unless you are wallowing in a particular state of bliss right now, I doubt you do. In the best case scenarios people drift away as they put more energy towards the causes that they are interested in. In general the punk scene has a tendency to stay at a place that just sorta recycles itself - older people "move on" and younger people join in. It's too bad that there isn't a better integration for "older" people to stay involved and feel that they are still a part of things. Obviously there are plenty of people who are the exception to this. I think that right now there is this odd thing happening where most of the people that I am close to - be it because of age or just that we've been friends for a long period of time - most of these folks are on the higher end of the age bracket (and like I said I think of myself as one of the younger ones cause my friends have always been older) and so many of these people seem to be in this awkward stage of trying to integrate their involvement in punk with their lifestyle overall and figure out how to keep moving forward and continue embracing life and the ideals which they are committed to. And it's a confusing time. It makes me sad to see a lot of people drifting away, and it also makes me excited to see people pursuing avenues of interest that are really productive and personally rewarding. I suppose that this same thing has been happening for years - as people have continually at various stages, written letters to MRR declaring that "Punk Is Dead" and all that - I always hated that shit. Much as I can relate to, appreciate and understand any criticism that people have, as well and understand all the reasons why one would feel that personally deep inside — when you are budding full of energy and enthusiasm and very active you don't want to hear someone else declare that it's dead and over and not what it once was. That just makes you mad at that person or laugh at them cause they lost a hold of that glow of energy that was once a fuel to them that you still know. The scene continues to change, and individuals continue to change. It's really hard to stay in one place and continue to have the same force of energy and



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go of that time when it ends and likewise have a hard time finding another place to feel that kind of ultimate contentment. It's especially hard when people continue to look to you to provide whatever kind of energy you had at a particular time - when it's no longer there. I think that is the very thing that causes many people to freak out and feel like they can not uphold the responsibility that has been placed upon them by other people. Having anything less than what once was - leaves people disappointed - and yet staying in once place, stagnating and being redundant is disappointing for yourself. Essentially what I'm saying is that in order for anyone to continue to stay active and stay involved in the punk scene, regardless of age and regardless of time — we need to continually find new sources of inspiration and energy. And

or let go of your punk ideals and "grow up and join the real world". Why is it that connected to punk we had this inability and fear of change - "progression" and "growth" are almost bad words. All the more, I think it's exactly when you look to your dreams and ideals and figure out new ways of reaching your goals. Rather than bitching and picking apart what is and focusing on the negative things, we can find a positive means of growth and change that will propel us forward. I want to find a place where embracing the new has nothing to do with letting go of what has been, but only lets go of what isn't there anymore so that today can be accepted as today with all that it has to offer.

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by judgments of appearance (something could very well relate too), and others were very personal.

The talk given by one woman in particular was of this nature and left many emotionally shaken or with a cold shiver running down their spine after the presentation. Some were in tears. Domestic violence, as I say, affects a great number of women. The women in my class were from varying backgrounds, primarily in their 30s and 40s and divorced or separated. Women who perhaps for the first time were gradually taking back control and destiny of their own lives. No matter what political stance you may hold, domestic violence is a subject which overcomes all boundaries. It is an aberration of our society which is too readily accepted as "normal".

The words this woman used in her talk, the simple dialogue spoken to explain how a marriage, originally "made in heaven", turned into one of violence and fear gives rise to such anger and emotion it's hard to explain and put into words.

The talk, as I've mentioned, touched upon everyone's feelings within the room. It brought to me surface feelings and experiences many of the other women had also known or recognized. In the discussion that ensued, the emotions that I witnessed, the stories each woman had to tell, left my mind in a spin. One group of women. So many tales of violence. How much other violence and abuse was going on out there? Now!?

These people are women. Human beings. Everyday people with everyday jobs with everyday lives. People who pass you in the street. People who hold no particular bearing on your own life yet many of these women have at some point been subjected to varying levels of physical or mental abuse. That so many are trapped in relationships or environments that they are afraid, be it mentally, physically, financially or emotionally to communicate to someone, anyone, or to leave their husband, lover, home or children, exposes the power and domination men can have over females.

It is fucked. It really is a fucked up situation and I despair power, control, religion, all aspects that help keep women in an unequal position, all components that help preserve and maintain men's views of how "life" should be. Traditions which do nothing to help bring people around to respect, appreciate and treat women as equals and human beings.

The fact that so many women are scared, scared to bring attention to their plight for fear of reprisal or of losing the children, leaves them in a situation few can imagine. One I certainly can only try to. That some women believe that it is their fault for being a victim! That they are inadequate; as mothers, as people. That they are incapable of withholding a relationship or of raising children. It just leaves me feeling sick. Sick, frustrated, amazed, frightened, angry!

This society I live in, this society you live in, this society we all live in, we create, we support, we perpetuate. We have the power to support each other, help each other, love each other. WE all have friends, family, people we care about who may be victims of domestic violence. Injustices which happened every day. When will we realize? When will we act? It may not happen to you today, nor tomorrow, nor even ever at all, but it may be your mother, your sister or your friend. Domestic violence is something no-one should have to endure, and we can fight back. —Steve "A Network of Friends"

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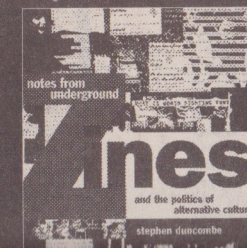
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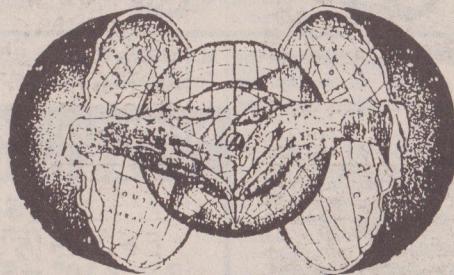
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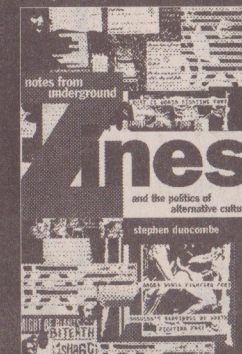
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BUSINESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN A MATCH MADE IN HELL. OR CORPORATE GIGANTICISM DEATH ALL AROUND PART 10,001. OR LET'S GET TOGETHER TO MAKE THINGS WORSE FOR EVERYONE AND CUT A BIT PROFIT ON THE SIDE AND CALL IT NEWER AND BETTER.

"The degraded condition of the environment today is emblematic of a culture of objectification that treats life on earth as a commodity. The ecological devastation in the Americas today is not a historical accident but a reflection of our disconnection from the natural world and our inner impoverishment." -Kenny Ausubel

This could be called some sort of "radical feed" writing, but I think of it more as "common sense food"... and sensible as in making sense for the common good, rather than making sense for purely economic or practical/ease reason ("sense for the few" or "sense for the apathetic"). But really, in a world in many ways dominated by greed and self-servience, anything that's done or thought of intentionally for the common good becomes radical. And that's a miserable state of affairs to find oneself in... but none the less, anyone with half an eyeball will indeed find themselves right there in it!

There are many largely untold stories behind food these days, and farming, and especially behind that precious link between the two-seeds. Why untold? The usual! Accurate information drowned out and colored by the voice of profit and vested interest in a certain reality being the dominant one.

To start with, "organic" gardening or growing is viewed as this sort of underdog PC newcomer in the world today, trying to find a little niche spot in farming methods and the market. But in the slightly bigger picture, organic gardening is as ancient as human farming itself, and chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and all of our modern methods have only been around for 70 or so years! Everything was completely organic before that, for untold thousands of years. So the whole perspective has been lost, buried under advertising and "agribusiness" (which means "food" - sounds tasty!). And unfortunately, a lot of incredible valuable information and knowledge has been abandoned and lost, even in such a short space of time. A lot has happened, and quickly; especially since WW II, when there was a sudden glut of nitrogen based chemicals left over from weaponry production that needed to be turned into a new profit.

Another odd point is that, to me at least, the fact that there is "organic" food, which means grown without the use of chemical fertilizers, sprays, treatments, pesticides, herbicides, and not jacked up with stabilizers, waxes, preservatives, etc. - sort of sheds a weird light on the rest of (the vast majority) of food available - i.e. it's all loaded with chemicals inside and out, many of which are outright poisons to us and the rest of the world (pesticide and herbicide have that nice death ending "cide", like suicide, homicide, genocide.) that mess being problem no. 1.

No. 2 is that commercial plant varieties are generally selected and grown not for nutritional value of flavor, but for qualities like shipping well, storing well, looking good, not bruising easily on a cross-country tractor trailer trip, uniformity, ability to be harvested mechanically, etc. So we lose out on nourishment and flavor - the essences of food!

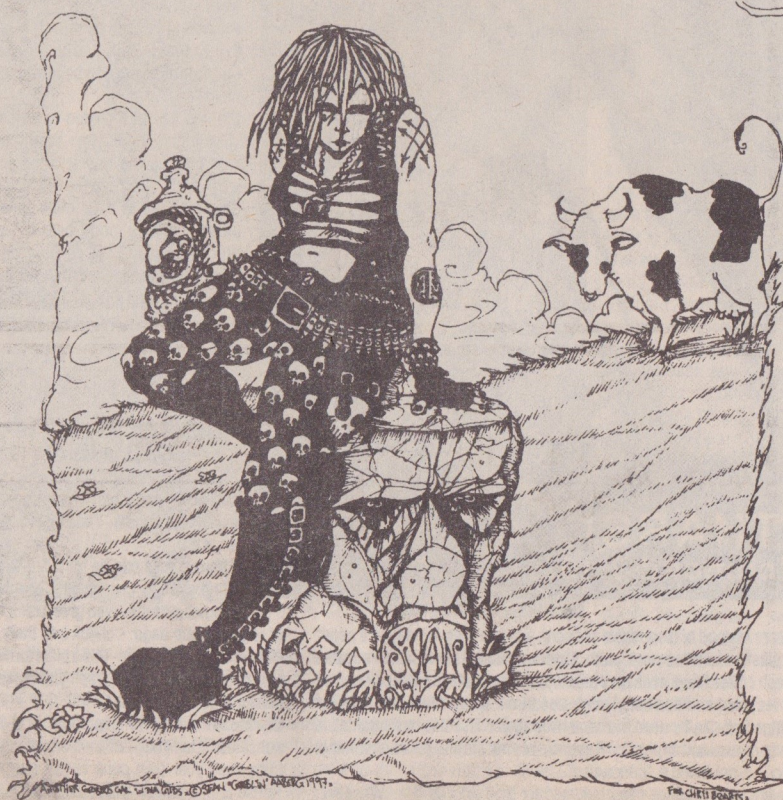
Problem no. 3! In order for agribusiness to work, monoculture (one kind of plant only) crops must be planted in huge areas. (You can't spray a small or diverse plot of farmland by helicopter). Now bugs and pests just love that idea because if they find the field and like to eat that crop, well there's 150 acres of it there for them to munch! So soon you've got a big problem, which leads you back full circle to spraying more chemicals. Another problem of the monoculture/agribusiness scenario is a serious reduction of natural biodiversity (just like human diversity, but in plants). For example, almost 3/4 of the potatoes grown in the US are one of 4 closely related varieties (the main one being the McDonald's french fry potato)... 2 pea varieties make up 96% of the crop, 3 snap beans make up 76%, 3/4 of soybeans grown are descendants of 6 original plants, the whole Latin American

the same plants keep taking the same nutrients out of it and depleting it - rotational planting helps, but you can also just add more chemical fertilizers! Also this loss of diversity really adds up - 97% of the varieties of cultivated food plants available in 1900 are gone today. And many are gone forever, a chain of evolution, development and adaptation stretching back hundreds of thousands of years broken and destroyed. Since the oh so fateful arrival of our man Columbus, an estimated 75% of the food plants in the Americas have disappeared (and we've also managed to destroy 75% of the good topsoil!) And many of these lost varieties have been selected and re-selected by farmers for nutrition, disease resistance, strength and vigor, for thousands of years - by saving the seeds from the healthiest plants and replanting them. So not only is the adaptability and strength of these particular varieties lost, but the whole genetic base of a plant type is drastically lessened - insuring less adaptability and evolution for the future! And this incredible heritage is replaced by in-breeding propped up with chemical crutches. And the whole way in which the natural world operates and evolves is marred and messed with - and this is an intricate web that we still hardly understand and so, don't even know what we're fucking up... over 99% of plant species are known only by a scientific name. We're continually fooled by science's arrogant and self-assured prejudice and egoism. Any good scientist will admit there's infinitely more that we don't understand, that which we do (or think we do). So like Columbus, like the destructive teenager we continually act like, we walk into a room start wrecking everything, before knowing or even looking at what it all is. "A weed is just a plant that we do not yet know the use of." - Ralph Waldo Emerson. A lot of the weeds we kill in our yards have more nutritional value than the food we buy at the grocery store!

One can easily see how dead it is when there's a lack of human diversity, in a room, an area, a town, and it's similar with plants - monoculture is dead, static, and boring. And this loss of diversity manifests also in the people involved with plants - the loss of small, unique, family farms - destroying individuality, self-reliance, regionalism, pride in your work, autonomy, character and culture. OK! More! Problem no. 4 - Plants grown with these fertilizers, sprays, etc. get weaker and weaker, as they're being babysat and bolstered by artificial means constantly. It's bad for the plants, and bad for the eaters; and as with anywhere, you get no substitutes and no real

institute of knowledge and higher learning!) Hybrid seeds are often highly productive, but only for one year. They are generally either sterile, or don't reproduce themselves true to form (i.e. mutant babies) in following years, thereby forcing the farmer to buy seeds from the company every year, instead of saving seeds from her/his own crop. This is especially fucked in poorer are "third world" countries, where self-sufficiency is more akin to survival. Farmers become strapped in and dependent on big seed and chemical corporations, and are left with no viable seed of their own, low fertility in their soil, and chemical residue everywhere... and to have to return year after year forever.

The other corporate advantage to hybrids is that they can be patented, and therefore controlled. And this leads into the whole budding



(hal) world of biotech, a multi-billion dollar, high-tech, and exclusive industry. Not just specific plants, but individual genes, are now being patented, in a quest for complete corporate control of the human food supply. And many of these genes are being taken from plants in poor countries whose farmers have developed varieties of food crops, by individual selection of seed, for thousands of years - only to have them taken, patented, and sold back to them. It's a totally absurd, psychotic, and tyrannical situation, and it's fairly easy to see in what directions it's pointing us. And of course the FDA, USDA and Supreme Court are all

sarily be done right now, or even in 1 or 3 years, but consider making it a priority. And not just for the good of yourself and everyone eating with you, but as a fuck you to Monsanto and the rest of the horde of corporate mongrels. There's a lot of information available on organic growing, and a lot of different ways to do it well, and a surprisingly large amount of food can be grown on even a 1/4 acre with the right knowledge and plants. Growing one's own food, or part of it, is also a major part of life itself, the human past and story, and the whole web of life on this planet - and it's worth being involved with for it's own merit alone. 3) If you plant a garden, buy seed that's organic, untreated, and open-pollinated (which means non-hybrid - a plant that will reproduce itself true-to-form each year, so you can buy seed once and save them to re-plant each year for the rest of your life, and your children's lives, and on and on...) There's a lot of good non-corporate non-treated seed sources at the end. 4) Learn about plants! Learn about what you put into your mouth. And there's also the whole world of medicinal plants as well. Plants have always been our allies in survival and self-sufficiency, and still are if we want them to be. If you're at all interested in learning about them, I highly recommend pursuing it - it's an ever-expansive and interesting world, and you won't be disappointed! Just start slow, and don't let it overwhelm you... 5) Even if you can't or don't want to grow some or all of your food, buy it from a CSA (Community-supported agriculture) farm, a co-op, local market, or health food store - somewhere where they care about more than the profit. Now here we arrive at the big question - why is it so expensive?? Partly because organic growing is not done much anymore, not subsidized, and there's not a large support network set up around to make it work as well as it could - in other words, organic food is not a social priority in corporate America. So small stores have to mark up prices more than typical on the groceries in order to stay in business. If more people shopped there, prices could go down some (that volume factor of business). But also, food in the US is not generally priced according to it's actual value and it's real cost to be grown and sold. If you factor in the further and actual costs of naturally-sustainable food production, like the environmental age of gasoline powered truck farming and food transportation, the damage to soil and waters from agricultural chemicals, and take away heavy subsidies for gasoline, petro-chemicals, and large scale industrial farming - you'd arrive at a price much closer to the cost of what the food is worth, and what it costs us as world citizens to produce. The cost of organic food reflects what it takes to enable an individual farmer to make a decent living without exploiting the soil, water, plants, cheap labor in other countries, etc. - or poisoning the living environment for every creature present and future - or having to have a shitty devoid job on some giant mechanized farm, or loading up the food with chemical ingredients that are actually cheaper than natural ingredients (only we could make that make sense), or generally fucking up with world for us all. If organic and natural farming and food becomes better established, it could be more affordable, as can be seen in certain areas with well-patroned health food stores, but it may not ever be as cheap - food that doesn't carry 1,000 deadly side effects is just not so cheap to grow, transport, and sell - there's a trade in the kind of price one pays. Not being rich myself, it's taken me awhile to sort this one out, but I've switched completely to organic food, and it feels good to cross out the corporate grocery store and it's fluorescent light kingdom of processing from the list of places to go... don't miss it a bit, and quite enjoy getting the simplest ingredients in bulk in glass jars, cooking and baking from scratch, understanding a lot more about food, and getting to know the owner and employees at the little health food store I go to solely... and being a bought-out

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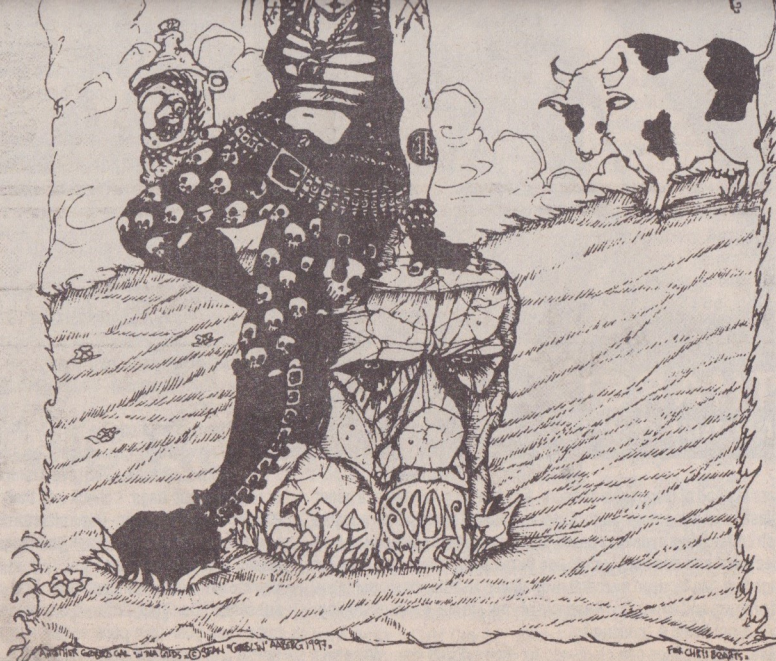
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with chemical crutches. And the whole way in which the natural world operates and evolves is marred and messed with - and this is an intricate web that we still hardly understand and so, don't even know what we're fucking up... over 99% of plant species are known only by a scientific name. We're continually fooled by science's arrogant and self-assured prejudice and egoism. Any good scientist will admit there's infinitely more that we don't understand, that which we do (or think we do). So like Columbus, like the destructive teenager we continually act like, we walk into a room start wrecking everything, before knowing or even looking at what it all is. "A weed is just a plant that we do not yet know the use of." - Ralph Waldo Emerson. A lot of the weeds we kill in our yards have more nutritional value than the food we buy at the grocery store! One can easily see how dead it is when there's a lack of human diversity, in a room, an area, a town, and it's similar with plants - monoculture is dead, static, and boring. And this loss of diversity manifests also in the people involved with plants - the loss of small, unique, family farms - destroying individuality, self-reliance, regionalism, pride in your work, autonomy, character and culture.

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No. 5! This partnership of petro-chemical, big machinery, and oil corporate and industry farmers is spreading it's disease to the seed industry. First off, most corporate seed is semi-toxic due to added fungicides and treatments. This is generally done to allow farmers to (mechanically) plant earlier and push the season, to expand profit. Also most corporations push hybrid seeds, which are selected and sometimes genetically altered, for the commercial aspects previously mentioned. The university near here, Virginia Tech, has been working with major grant money to develop the "Round Up-Resistant" soybean ('Round-Up' is a billion-dollar-a-year earning herbicide made by Monsanto Co.). So this means whole fields can be doused repeatedly with the herbicide, killing everything in sight except the specially bred soybean! (And that's the cutting edge of big money forward thinking at a major



(ha!) world of biotech, a multi-billion dollar, high-tech, and exclusive industry. Not just specific plants, but individual genes, are now being patented, in a quest for complete corporate control of the human food supply. And many of these genes are being taken from plants in poor countries whose farmers have developed varieties of food crops, by individual selection of seed, for thousands of years - only to have them taken, patented, and sold back to them. It's a totally absurd, psychotic, and tyrannical situation, and it's fairly easy to see in what directions it's pointing us. And of course the FDA, USDA and Supreme Court are all lending their hands to help it along... as a good example of organizations like the US Department of Agriculture's priorities, out of their almost 130,000 employees, only 2 are assigned to work on the development of organic agriculture - and one full time employee is solely dedicated to studying the flowability of ketchup.

So! In the interest of not letting this go on forever, which it could, we come to the question of what can we do? Various unbomber-type schemes aside, there are some fairly straight-forward things I do: 1) Not buying from chains and corporations! I extend this to all of them whenever possible, which is probably 90% of the time. There's a lot of small independent stores and people who make things out there, you just have to find them. It's a lot like music: you won't get advertised to death about DIY music, but once you find it, there's a lot out there. 2) Plan to grow your own food! This is a serious undertaking, and can't neces-

won't be disappointed. Just start slow, and don't let it overwhelm you... 5) Even if you can't or don't want to grow some or all of your food, buy it from a CSA (Community-supported agriculture) farm, a co-op, local market, or health food store - somewhere where they care about more than the profit. Now here we arrive at the big question - why is it so expensive?? Partly because organic growing is not done much anymore, not subsidized, and there's not a large support network set up around to make it work as well as it could - in other words, organic food is not a social priority in corporate America. So small stores have to mark up prices more than typical on the groceries in order to stay in business. If more people shopped there, prices could go down some (that volume factor of business). But also, food in the US is not generally priced according to it's actual value and it's real cost to be grown and sold. If you factor in the further and actual costs of naturally-sustainable food production, like the environmental age of gasoline powered truck farming and food transportation, the damage to soil and waters from agricultural chemicals, and take away heavy subsidies for gasoline, petro-chemicals, and large scale industrial farming - you'd arrive at a price much closer to the cost of what the food is worth, and what it costs us as world citizens to produce. The cost of organic food reflects what it takes to enable an individual farmer to make a decent living without exploiting the soil, water, plants, cheap labor in other countries, etc. - or poisoning the living environment for every creature present and future - or having to have a shitty devoid job on some giant mechanized farm, or loading up the food with chemical ingredients that are actually cheaper than natural ingredients (only we could make that make sense), or generally fucking up with world for us all. If organic and natural farming and food becomes better established, it could be more affordable, as can be seen in certain areas with well-patroned health food stores, but it may not ever be as cheap - food that doesn't carry 1,000 deadly side effects is just not so cheap to grow, transport, and sell - there's a trade in the kind of price one pays. Not being rich myself, it's taken me awhile to sort this one out, but I've switched completely to organic food, and it feels good to cross out the corporate grocery store and it's fluorescent light kingdom of processing from the list of places to go... don't miss it a bit, and quite enjoy getting the simplest ingredients in bulk in glass jars, cooking and baking from scratch, understanding a lot more about food, and getting to know the owner and employees at the little health food store I go to solely... and being a bought-out exploitable sucker in one less way! And now I have only about a grocery bag of trash every couple months without all that shitty advertising over-packaging. And learning about plants continues to be like all the best things in life - ever-expanding, interesting, eternal, and continually connecting and re-connecting with all the other interesting things to know and do. Good luck! -Gabe

* Quotes mainly from: **Seeds Of Change - The Living Treasure** by Kenny Ausubel

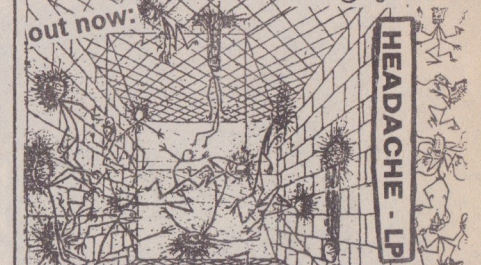
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PARALOGY
New Records for
the New Year!
Men's Recovery
Project 7 "imense
Overly Reject"
Lux Veritas 7"



FLAT EARTH RECS
fresh for 98 you suckers
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So soon you've got a big problem, which leads you back full circle to spraying more chemicals. Another problem of the monoculture/agribusiness scenario is a serious reduction of natural biodiversity (just like human diversity, but in plants). For example, almost 3/4 of the potatoes grown in the US are one of 4 closely related varieties (the main one being the McDonald's french fry potato)... 2 pea varieties make up 96% of the crop, 3 snap beans make up 76%, 3/4 of soybeans grown are descendants of 6 original plants, the whole Latin American coffee industry's genetic heritage goes back to a single tree, and it goes on and on. There are literally hundreds of varieties of any given food plant, and most have been selected, grown, and intermixed (cross-pollinated) for 1000's of years by now. For wheat, out of 250 available varieties, 10 dominate. So why is all that scary? For one, it is in direct contradiction of the way nature operates, which is through diversity, variety, evolution and change, and going in opposition to a millions of years old arrangement inevitably leads to problems. For example, those bugs mentioned before could foreseeable wipe out 75-95% of a certain variety of food crop in one epidemic, or a newly introduced fungus, bacteria, or virus (that's the reason you don't see the widespread chestnut or elm around anymore) — it's a vulnerable and stupid spot to be in. Plus monoculture isn't good for the soil as

patented, in a quest for complete control of the human food supply. And many of these genes are being taken from plants in poor countries whose farmers have developed varieties of food crops, by individual selection of seed, for thousands of years - only to have them taken, patented, and sold back to them. It's a totally absurd, psychotic, and tyrannical situation, and it's fairly easy to see in what directions it's pointing us. And of course the FDA, USDA and Supreme Court are all lending their hands to help it along... as a good example of organizations like the US Department of Agriculture's priorities, out of their almost 130,000 employees, only 2 are assigned to work on the development of organic agriculture - and one full time employee is solely dedicated to studying the flowability of ketchup.

Ok! More! Problem no. 4 - Plants grown with these fertilizers, sprays, etc. get weaker and weaker, as they're being babysat and bolstered by artificial means constantly. It's bad for the plants, and bad for the eaters; and as with anywhere - you get no substance and no soul.

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PARALOGY

New Records for the New Year!

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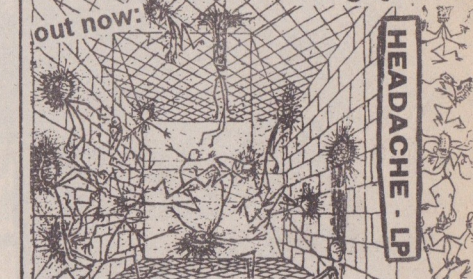
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HIATUS / DOOM - EP
SEDITION - "EARTHBEAT" LP
SEDITION / PINK TURDS IN SPACE - LP
DOOM - "RUSH HOUR..." LP/CD/CS
LOS CRUDOS - "CANCIONES..." LP
WITCHKNOT - "SQUAWK" - LP
SCATHA - "RESPECT..." LP/CS
EBOLA - "INCUBATION" LP
WHIRLING PIG DERVISH - LP
HEADACHE / RECUSANT EP
WITCHKNOT - "SUCK" EP
VR - "DREAMSTATE" LP

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	UK	(SURFACE)	(AIR)
EP/CS	£2	\$4	\$5
LP/CD	£5	\$10	\$12

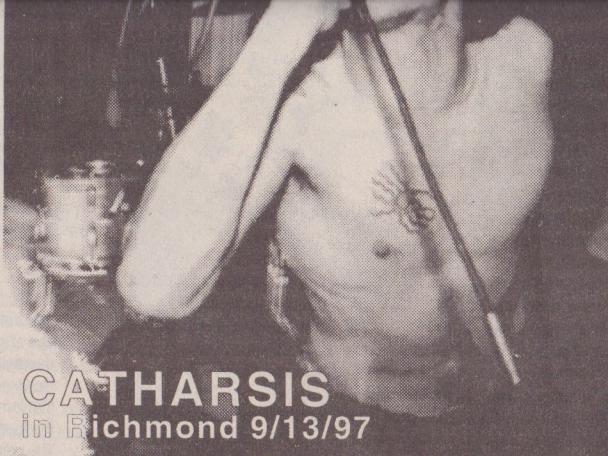
PAYMENT: WELL CONCEALED CASH
(OR UK £ CHEQUES TO 'FLAT EARTH')

yourself. Comment: If your neighborhood doesn't collect these things - there is probably somewhere nearby that does.

Above and beyond the importance of recycling is eliminating all of the garbage you accumulate before hand. In other words - rather than buying all of these over packaged products from the supermarket - buy food in bulk, or at least products which have a minimum amount of waste packaging. When given the choice I always opt for buying food and veggies in bulk - it is cheaper for one, and you don't have to throw away useless plastic and Styrofoam containers. If you can't get what you need in bulk then choose a packing material that is reusable and recyclable (Styrofoam is not - therefore it's really wasteful). You get the idea right.

I used to print recycling and environmental tips in S&L regularly. After awhile I felt like I'd covered all of the information I could and that everything else was pretty obvious. Once you start thinking about reusable and recyclable materials and over packaging then each step of minimizing follows very logically. And once you make these simple routines a part of your daily habits - it doesn't require any more work or thought. It's been a long time since I've printed any of this stuff. And as time has passed and things have changed I thought that maybe it would be a good thing to cover once again. To me it is a completely obvious thing - but recently my eyes have been opened that not only does all of society embrace recycling - but a good amount of punks and alternative minded folks don't either. Whether it be because they just never thought about it - or it's just not convenient - I think that is crap. When I first moved into my house I had a hell of a time getting the recycling bin delivered as well as getting them to pick it up. I called and called and bitched and finally it seems to be working. One of the things that I was asked when I didn't have a scheduled pick-up was if anyone else on my block recycled. I thought that was crap too - cause, while I do think that everyone should - I should be able to recycle even if my neighbors don't. These days you actually do pay a small fee in your city utilities to pay for recycling - so this is something that you are entitled to. This is where I kinda laugh - cause a few years ago I lugged the shit down the street religiously and now it's a given that they come and pick it up - yet I still have to struggle and fight for that to happen. I'm surprised that after the consciousness of environmental issues seemed to be on the rise a few years ago - it seems like it has fallen back down more recently and I really don't understand why. The combination of having this struggle in my neighborhood as well as being around several people who had never ever recycled a thing before made me realize that perhaps it was time to print some of this basic stuff once again here in S&L. I hope that it's a help and that you'll think about it and put some of these things into practice cause not only will you save money but it's also easier and much better for the earth and world around you.

Reduce. By putting forethought into what garbage you are produc-



CATHARSIS in Richmond 9/13/97

razors instead of disposable shavers, a coffee mug instead of a paper or plastic cup in the store, cloth diapers instead of disposable, reusable mesh coffee filters instead of paper, look for containers that can be reused or recycled and don't buy single use throw-away products - look for things that can be used over and over again. Use this basic guideline and premise and apply it to all aspects of your life and your consuming. Work at not being a "consumer".

Reuse. Many things can be reused for their original use. Whenever possible reuse food containers for food storage. Always use both sides of paper when writing and copying. Even odd scraps of paper can be used for note paper, or many other things - use your imagination. Share magazines and newspapers with friends or take them to a community place that can pass them on. Take advantage of the library! If you have stuff that you just don't want (clothing, books, household stuff) - either give things away to friends or neighbors, or an organization such as a thrift store, a school or else have a yard sale. Don't throw away stuff that someone else would be able to put to use. And don't be afraid to check out garbage cans where people do have a tendency to throw out cool shit. Walking down alleys is a good way to find usable things that you might consider treasures.

Separate. By cleaning out containers, bottles etc. at the time of use and drying them and putting them in their place - recycling becomes really simple. When you separate things at the time of disposal - the "work" is already done and there should be no hassle.

Recycle. Find out about your curbside collection program or else a neighborhood collection. Look in the phone book under recycling and it will probably have a phone #, as well as a listing of collection sites.

Grocery and Shopping Bags

One of the most basic things you can do is stop taking bags when you make purchases. Especially if you are buying a drink or something you

organization thrift store. Worn out clothes can be turned into rags for cleaning (rather than using paper towels). You can wash them and continue to reuse them.

Concentrated or bulk foods save money as well as wasteful packaging. Dry foods, beans, flour, nuts, grains, etc. can be purchased in bulk. As can tofu, concentrated juice and soaps. **Junk mail** can be reduced by writing to Mail Preference Service/Direct Marketing Assoc./11 W. 42 St/POB 3861/NY NY 10163-3861. Ask them to take your name and address of any mailing lists.

Libraries are one of the best places that our society provides. Books are good - and libraries are great for providing them to us for free!!

Magazines can be passed along and reused by friends or community organizations. They can also be recycled.

Microwaves can be convenient - but don't fall into the gimmick trap of buying single serving containers - you are paying for the excess packaging. Food tastes better when it is cooked for real anyway.

Phone books can be recycled with newspapers

Plastic Bags can usually be recycled at the grocery store (sometimes they also give a refund if you bring your own bags, or return plastic bags - check into that)

Plastic wrap is wasteful - use a plate turned upside down, or a reusable container to store food. Wash and reuse plastic food storage bags.

Styrofoam will never degrade. Find a substitute. Don't buy coffee in Styrofoam cups (use your own punk coffee mug). Reuse any "peanuts" packaging that you have.

Tampons are available without applicators. It's more natural and doesn't produce garbage. Paper applicators are better than plastic.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE CLEANING TIPS

You can do all of your cleaning with these few items that are safe, natural and contain no chemicals. **Baking Soda, Borax, Vinegar and Salt**

Abrasive cleaner: use 1/2 lemon dipped in borax

All Purpose Cleaner: Use hot water, soap and borax or use 1/2 cup "washing soda" per bucket of water.

Avoid commercial products. Borax, baking powder, and vinegar are best for cleaning. They are friendlier to the skin and more environmentally safe. There are no gimmicks and no corporations involved.

clinging to pans and dishes. **Laundry products:** Use soap products which boast "washing soda". It brightens fabrics and costs less.

Laundry: 1/2 cup of vinegar in rinse water will soften laundry and cut soap use. Using soap flakes is a non-toxic biodegradable substitute for detergent. Add 1/3 cup of washing soda (sodium carbonate) to help remove stains and grease

Odor in containers can be eliminated with baking soda and water

Pet odor remover: Vinegar

Roach repellent: Chopped bay leaves, cucumber skins or boric acid

Rug/Furniture Cleaner: sprinkle cornstarch and baking soda on rugs and furniture, let sit, then vacuum.

Scouring powder: Use baking soda to clean kitchen appliances, counters, sinks. It cleans and deodorizes at the same time.

Soap buildup: can be removed from bathroom fixtures with undiluted vinegar. Let sit for 5 min. then rinse.

Surface cleaning: Vinegar and salt

Use Rags, Towels and Sponges!

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Conserve water by not letting the tap run while you are brushing your teeth or washing dishes. Or for that matter while you are walking around the kitchen working your way back to the sink! Live

for awhile with out running water and you will realize how much water is wasted in a normal household and also how precious water is.

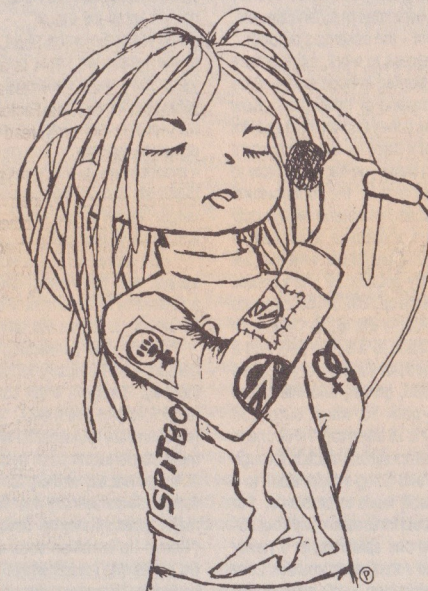
Cooking: put lids on pots to avoid heat waste and help water boil faster. Use small pots on small burners, large on large - it's more efficient.

Drinking water can be kept in refrigerator - then it will be cold and you don't have to run the tap. **Sunlight** is a great light and heat source. Open up your curtains during the day and let the sun light and heat the house.

Water plants with leftover drinking water or water from washing veggies (vitamins are good for plants too)

If you want more information, have questions, or comments or additional information or articles on this sort of thing that would be appropriate to print in a future issue of S&L then write.

-Chris



**RARE RECORDS FOR LOW PRICES FROM BANDS LIKE:
THE ADICTS, THE DICKIES, MISFITS, CONFLICT,
THE PARTISANS, AGENT ORANGE, SOCIAL UNREST,
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MORE. ALSO A BIG SELECTION OF SHIRTS,
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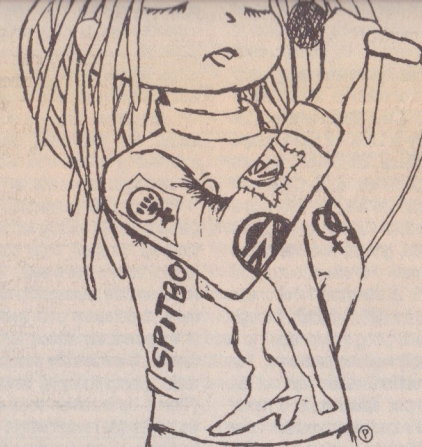
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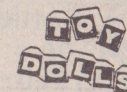
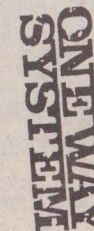
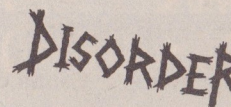
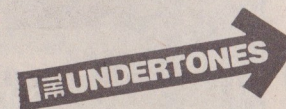
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Z I N E R E V I E W S

ZINE REVIEWS BY CHRIS & SHANE

59¢ #20 (free/ PO Box 19806/ Seattle WA 98109) I got the impression that this is a lesbian-esque zine or at least "girl pride" which is fine, but being male I have a hard time attaching myself to the experiences portrayed. However: I enjoyed some aspects such as the column that called non-vegetarians hypocrites, and the conversation with a topless pride rally participant named Creaky. Beer reviews, record reviews, and an awesome poster of 80s metal icons round out this otherwise not so interesting zine. (-Shane) I think this zine has rounded out well and it's looking pretty good. Even though it's free you should send some stamps or a donation to cover postage. (-Chris)

AGREE TO DISAGREE #4 (\$2/PO Box 56057/1st Ave PO/Vancouver BC V5L 5E2 Canada) One helluva' nice looking zine for you professional zine lovers. The letter section is so nice to read. I wish other editors would take note. Chock full of zines and record reviews and good, well written columns and excellent interviews with the likes of Anti-Flag, UK Subs, Reset, and Another Joe. Keep this piece of literature going. 64 pages newsprint. (-Shane)

**** ALICE IS AN ISLAND #2** (2 stamps/c/o Robyn Marasco/Smith College/Box 8438/98 Green St./Northampton MA 01063-0100) Sometimes I could really kick myself - that is when I have a really great zine for way too long without reviewing it. This is the best zine I've read in a long time (and I've had it for months!). Robyn writes really well and she takes on issues with an educated and informed manner and she confronts and tackles these issues with her strong opinions. She talks about the hardcore scene and how it treats it's women participants. She covers issues of gender and sexual preferences, as well both male and female rape. And perhaps best of all - she even says - "if these topics seem too common and usual for a hardcore zine done by a woman - then why the fuck don't things change?" Right on. But these are not just "usual topics", because she covers everything really well and approaches things different because she is really passionate about her feelings and opinions - and the criticisms that she has are right on in my eyes. Another part that I really liked was a personal critique of how veganism is related to other issues - in particular one of class and money - because if you are dirt poor you think first of feeding yourself and keeping warm - not of the ingredients behind these things. I read this one cover to cover - and like my favorite zines - there was a lot to read - and this zine totally rocked my world. For 2 stamps - you really need to order this. And if she's got a new issue out by now (very likely) - I'm sure it's as good. Sorry Robyn that I took so long - but this zine is great!

AMSTERDAM CHRONICLE (\$5/ Kanaalstraat 66/ Huis 1054/ XK Amsterdam, The Netherlands) I've gotten 3 or 4 of these in the mail - just one page. But I guess that is a means of advertising a bigger 60 page issue that covers issues such as Police Spying on coffeshops and people at home, police drug peddling and racism and other radical issues. Looks interesting.

ANTEBELLUM #5 (4466 Brookmere/Kentwood MI 49512) While I always like zines that have an anarcho-punk flair to them, sometimes I find that the basic info pattern just doesn't cut it for me. And I'm wary of things like scams and phone tapping - where the info is really really vague. Sometimes things are indeed simple - but on the other hand I wouldn't go fucking shit up after reading a few sentences in a fanzine. Anyway - there is coverage of race and class issues in Grand Rapids, anarchism vs. communism comparison, stuff on riots and police brutality. I felt like much of it was too basic to really hold my interest.

*** ASSWHINE. By Carrie** (\$2ppd/Migraine/PO Box 2337/Berkeley CA 94702) Carrie does comics - she's been printing her own in zine format for years and I've always loved them. Migraine has published a bunch of her stuff in a book/zine format and as always, it is a thoroughly enjoyable read into the personal life of Carrie. She draws and tells stories on an autobiographical level - much of them dealing

AUGUST SPIES #1 (403 W. 22nd St./Sioux Falls SD 57105) Man, this zine impressed the hell out of me. Someone definitely did their homework on this one. Well constructed articles on American Military involvement in El Salvador, the horrendous acts of Multinational corporations, the plight of American working class, and a historical piece on the labor movement in the 1800s. A cool pamphlet about stealing from the workplace is included also. Fantastic first issue. (-Shane)

AUSCAR MORBID #2 (donation/Tara/7 W. Madison Ave. Box #159/Chicago IL 60602) Tara has an awesome comic drawing style as well



ANN BERETA
@ Twisters

as great hand-writing. This is a comic - about Auscar doing morbid evil things. There are also some additional info. bits "to get you in the mood", which relate to the comic stories. It's a bit weird and off for my tastes - but I like the look.

BIG FISH #5 (Sept) (c/o Bob Kamzelski/500 W. Beaver Ave #5/State College PA 16801) This is a small 1/4 sized zine that takes on a personal format as Bob writes about a variety of things like body odor, Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory, a recipe, and other misc. things that all seem kinda random. I read though it all - but it just kinda made me go - why? Huh? Eh.

BLIND TO FAITH #2 (\$1/PO Box 771296/Lakewood OH 44107) An immensely entertaining interview with the band InHumanity is the obvious stand out in this otherwise typical fanzine. The interviewer delves into questions that show me the actual life of the bands instead of boring me with questions about how long they've been together. Worth every penny for the interviews with InHumanity and C.R. (-Shane)

BLOND MOR (\$1ppd/Migraine/PO Box 2337/Berkeley CA 94702)

original idea for band interviews I've ever seen. Mad Libs fucking rule! (-Shane)

CHUMPIRE #90 & #92 (SASE/ PO Box 680/ Conneaut Lake PA 16316-0680) Greg's sharp-witted to the point one page of reviews and commentary continues regularly. Issue #92 has the addition of a nice new font which I like. He's got this great way of reviewing things very to the point.

CLASS WAR #74 (\$3/ London CW/ PO Box 467/ London E8 3QX/ England) You probably know the basic premise of this English zine. Your basic rants of working class struggle and English royalty hatred.

A quite humorous stab at the death of Princess Diana and an excellent cover are highlights. So grab your molotovs and journey down the Class War road. You won't regret it. (-Shane)

DANISH ESROM #4 (Noah/634 Millwood Rd./Toronto Ontario M45 1K8/Canada) Nice little zine to read during the 20 minutes before you go to bed. Noah talks of his hatred for TV while admitting he probably couldn't live without it, learning the true meaning of real hip-hop music, literary censorship, the environmental wastefulness of producing beef. I really liked the list of animal testing companies. (-Shane)

DELIRIUM #2 (\$1/ Harmonee/ 4809 Del Monte Rd./La Canada CA 91011) A very personal, in depth look into the life of 18 year old Harmonee Welch. Ranging from topics of boy hating, pin-up poster fetishes, and the desire of never wanting to have children, Harmonee tells you how she sees life in her own view, which sometimes seems sort of bleak. Good poetry too. (-Shane)

**** DWGSHT ZINE #10** (\$2.50ppd/ PO Box 28/ Durham NC 27702) This has been a consistent favorite for a while now. Alex does a great

enjoyed the articles on this for youngsters in trouble with the law an other information dealing with warrants, rights of privacy, and the do's and don'ts of demonstrations and protests. Topped off with an interesting Descendents interview. Edward earns the seal of approval. (-Shane)

EL MONO CON NAVAJA (Casilla 16889/Correo 9/Santiago Chile) This is a newsletter, in Spanish about animal rights and animal liberation. Radical news source for those reading Spanish interested in animal liberation. I hope I got the address right.

GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT #2 (Free/ Reese/POB 15295/SFCA 94115) There's really not much I can say about this zine because nothing really stood out except an interview with a cheesy glam metal band called "Pantz Noyzee". Bad columns, bad poetry, bad layout. Maybe the part that saves this thing is the letters section where other unfortunate readers trounce the quality of this zine. I try to find some sort of sparkle, but it was really hard to find one here. (-Shane)

HAG RAG #3 (\$2/ Skuld/ PO Box 51538/ Light House Point, FL 33074) For those involved in the world of witchcraft this is your cup of tea. Information on homemade menstrual pads, witchcraft board games and cut witchie dolls. Didn't interest me, but hey, who am I? (-Shane)

HATESPAWN #3 (\$2/3745 Pearson Ave./Philadelphia PA 19114) Skimming through this pathetic waste of paper I started to notice a theme of anti-Semitic newspaper clippings and I rambled deeper thinking the clippings were just showing a problem in society. Then I took notice of an ad selling a book called "Tales from the Holofoax". Next thing you know I'm seeing naked women with swastikas drawn on their heads pasted over idiotic spewings of childish porno obsessed imbeciles. Why bother sending this shit for review when it's plainly going to get blasted. They should've saved this copy for someone as simple as themselves. (-Shane)

HAZLO TU MISMO #2 (\$1/ HTM/ CC 213 Suc 12 (b)/ (1412) Buenos Aires Argentina) A good newsprint zine done in Spanish that reminds me a bit of a smaller Heartattack or MRR. It's got interviews with Veija Escuela, Dead Stool Pigeon and Operation: Cliff Claven. Plus columns (including one from George Tabb) plus zine and music reviews.

**** HEARTATTACK #16** (\$1/PO Box 848/Goleta CA 93116) I love this zine - it's continually a favorite and probably the best "staple" zine that I read to find out what is going on. I've always liked Heartattack for it's columns - which are all written either by people that I know, or else those who I find to be some of the best "voices" with in the hardcore/punk scene - so that is awesome. The layout and coverage of HaC is right on. And perhaps best of all - I love the fact that they cover the hardcore/punk scene from the grassroots diy and emo level where ideas and issues and politics are at the center. Heartattack continues to inspire me. This particular issue is mostly dedicated to covering the "More Than Music Festival" this past summer in Columbus and an accused rape situation that dominated the stage and caused a hell of an uproar. Rather than the banter that resulted a few years ago - this time around they've got columns from several people who had something to say either on rape and how rape is handled in the scene or to the specific incident. I thought it was all well handled and raised issues and a forum that can and should not revolve around this one situation. In addition to that theme, there are a few other regular columns and a butt load of reviews. The bulk of reviews (both zines and music) they have made me realize that there really must be an incredible influx of product being generated cause we all seem to just keep reviewing and reviewing. This is a good place to find out what is new and what is happening especially with in the hardcore/emo scene. Actually was kinda glad that this whole issue was columns and reviews with no band interviews cause I ended up being really into all that was here.

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AT A CRAWL #2 (Nov.) (\$3ppd/ 584 Broadway Suite 806, NY NY 10012) This is a good zine that has interviews with the Melvins and Furious George, stuff on Kyuss, an interview with Frank Kozik, plus a story about learning to tattoo and some other bits to round it out. While not generally an area I'm into (bandwise) - the people that I live with are, so I was able to look at it a bit more openly. Plus the writing style was cool cause I think she's fairly new to living in NYC and she has this enthusiasm and energy that I had when I first lived there and that is awesome! Definitely a rad time to be productive and write with great feeling and emotion.

BLIND TO FAITH #2 (\$1/PO Box 771296/ Lakewood OH 44107) An immensely entertaining interview with the band InHumanity is the obvious stand out in this otherwise typical fanzine. The interviewer delves into questions that show me the actual life of the bands instead of boring me with questions about how long they've been together. Worth every penny for the interviews with InHumanity and C.R. (-Shane)

BLOOD MOP (\$1ppd/ Migraine/ PO Box 2337/ Berkeley CA 94702) This is a small one timer that is about body excrements. You know - stories about spit, piss, blood, shit...

CAPTn NOLA #16 (no price/PO Box 11212/ Albuquerque NM 87192) Young girl, boredom, small town USA. Nothing ground breaking here but then again not terrible by any means. Could be better laid out and neater. Rants on how schools suppress individuality, the media's constant bombardment of how all female's should model themselves, and how her town was the home birth of nuclear testing. (-Shane)

CHICKEN IS GOOD FOOD #3 (\$2/ PO Box 642634/ SF CA 94164-2634) If you enjoy pop punk then boy is this the happy little rag for you. Except for the article on noise metal, this is happy go lucky pop perkiness. That's not a bad thing. This zine is very well done - it's 64 pages on newsprint. Lots of columns, reviews and probably the most

91011) A very personal, in depth look into the life of 18 year old Harmonee Welch. Ranging from topics of boy hating, pin-up poster fetishes, and the desire of never wanting to have children, Harmonee tells you how she sees life in her own view, which sometimes seems sort of bleak. Good poetry too. (-Shane)

**** DWGSHT ZINE #10** (\$2.50ppd/ PO Box 28/ Durham NC 27702) This has been a consistent favorite for a while now. Alex does a great job on this zine by mixing historical politics and issues with hardcore and punk music, with literary intelligence and good graphics to boot. This new issue has been done in a new format that is much more "book"-like and even all of us punks will have to admit that a good quality cover does a lot to lure us in. He wanted more of a feeling of permanence that newsprint didn't have. So this issue has in-depth articles that are written in an educating yet very readable way on the first amendment and free speech and how this freedom has been censored and controlled through all of history, Cesar Chavez and the Farm Workers Movement in the US and union organizing, a biography of Emma Goldman, the invasion of East Timor and an interview with the Strike from Mpls. Plus reviews. Awesome and really well done! Includes a supplement with book reviews too.

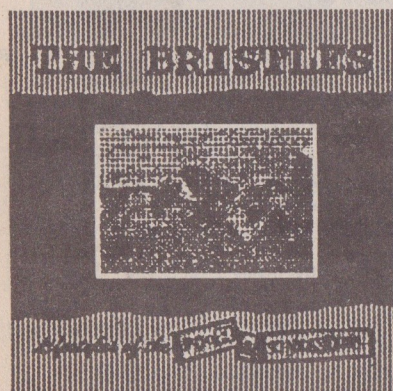
EDWARD (\$2/ 5553 181 A. Str/ Surrey BC V35 722 Canada) I really

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*** HELL AND DAMNATION #4** (\$3/ Colin/ 22 Burns Villas/ East Lane/ Stainforth/ Doncaster/ S. Yorks/ DN7 5DP/ England) One day we'll get an article on why some UK addresses are so long and complicated. This is continually one of the best zines coming out of England now. Colin does this all in an immaculate handwritten text with cut and paste layouts - so it's readable and looks good. Plus he covers what I think is good stuff in the anarcho peace punk vein. We've got interviews w/ Verbalvi Delikt from Croatia, Real Reggae (a HC band from Japan) and Finland's Harsh. Plus reviews of zines and music - that are worth reading just cause the coverage is within a realm that I can relate to. Also some good ranting type columns - one of which is about the new resurgence and popularity of punk - and what crap it is. Awesome zine - totally worth getting a hold of

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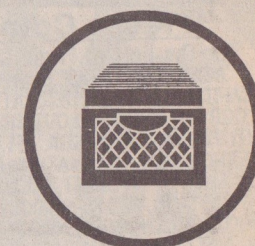
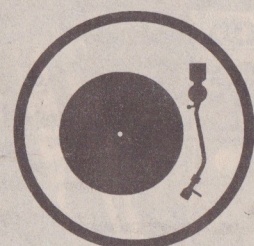


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her life in California. Sometimes humorous, sometimes saddening, most of the time depressing. Through the drawings you feel what she feels and it takes an awful lot of guts to open yourself up the way she does here. The story of the cat dying is extremely touching. This zine is a must have. (-Shane)

THE MUCKRAKER #6 OAKLAND (c/o David McMahon/ 6019 A Idaho Street/Oakland CA 94608) This is an awesome 1/4 sized little book zine. Each issue has a city theme - this time Oakland, CA. What is cool is that David does a lot of historical research about Oakland and also has his own personal bits and experiences. So the blend is a nice combination of historical significance and in this case city gone wrong decay with stories about David working as a temp in a big office, about mentally ill people on all buses and so much more. Well written and completely charming!

THE NEUS SUBJEX #12 1/2 (SASE/ PO Box 18051/ Fairfield OH 45018) This mini zine is simply an interview with the US Bombs.

THE RIGHT PATH #2 (c/o Josh Engineer/ 49 Wilcox St/ Rochester NY 14607-3832) I have a really hard time with graffiti text - I just can't read it. The only flaw in this zine is that I couldn't read the handwritten name on the cover and the cover just sorta lacked eye catchiness. But - I really enjoyed the read inside. There's enough personal stuff to give you an idea of what Josh is like and what he thinks about various issues and where he is coming from in the hardcore scene - liked that. There's a great interview with Fall Silent. And a bunch of reviews. The layout could use more flair - but it is clean and gets the words across.

THE SUFFRAGETTE #3 (summer) (\$2/ Suffragette/Wolf's Lair/11 Cromwell Rd./Wolverhampton/WV10 8AA/England) This has a very old style 77 punk feeling - probably in part to the cut and paste clippings of old UK punk (Pistols & Crass bits). But it's not a zine lost in history - it covers the current UK punk scene. We've got interviews with the Short and Curlies, High Treason and Dog On A Rope. Loads of reviews (zines, shows, music). The cut and paste style layouts work - though I did find myself looking at much of it as an image rather than reading the actual text. Ahem. The 10 best punk rock stars deaths pages really bring in that classic punk history stuff. A good one - especially for those into the UK punk scene.

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Address in South & Central America and Spain. They also do a tape label and if you order a tape this newsletter comes free. Otherwise - send something in trade, a nice letter or an IRC.

*** WHERE'S THE OUTRAGE?! #8** (The Old Man/ 1953 W. Sunnyside #1, Chicago IL 60640) Nice looking, well put together zine which is so rare among half-sized zines. Get ready to think when you open these pages because the bombardment of education is relentless. From the comparison of American suburbs and cities in relation to South African Apartheid, to the brief history of American involvement in the overthrowing of the Guatemalan government, to the intelligent ramblings of Jen Angel of Fucktooth Zine fame. Definite good read. (-Shane) Also interviews with Bristle, Lickity Split, Chicago and show reviews. (-Chris)

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January 23-25. Group study, workshops, films and live music. Send SASE to Beyond The Wall of Injustice/ PO Box 6188/ Fullerton CA 92834. Tel# (714) 490-4950. Human Freedom and Animal Liberation!

ASYLUM - A PUNK / HARDCORE CONVERGENCE. June 17-23rd 1998 in Eugene Oregon. This convergence is intended to draw individuals from all margins of the punk/hardcore community together for a week of intense networking, discussions, skill/knowledge sharing and fun under an explicitly political focus of creating more active, viable and enjoyable community of resistance. For more information write: The Antipathy Collective/ PO Box 11703/ Eugene OR 97440. Tac@efn.org Tel: (541) 431-8080

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EAT SHIT PUNK ZINE NEEDS art, columns, ads, interviews, and music for issue #5 which comes with an international punk comp. Bands send demos or whatever to: Danny/ POB 4766/ SLT CA 96157

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UPHEAVAL ZINE SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS of all sorts. Hardcore, punk and DIY a must. Scene reports, columns, review material (zines, tapes, records) personal writings, rants etc... Especially interested in overseas punk and hardcore but if you are American that's fine as well. Write soon to: Upheaval/ PO Box 471/ Allston MA 02134.

BANDS NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL TAPE COMPILATION/ ZINE. Punk, hardcore, crust, metal, emo, folk... send music, art, photos, lyrics and anything else for the zine (stories, scams activism - related, etc.) to: Hawk K/ 299 Adelphi St/ Brooklyn NY 11205.

BANDS NEEDED FOR TAPE COMP. SPLIT release between Fight For Peace & Primitive Resources distro. Hardcore, punk, thrash, anarcho, grind, crust, etc. All bands will be notified. Thanks! Primitive Resources c/o Isaac/ 1965 Canyon Dr/ Hollywood CA 90068

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.. **THE LOUISVILLE PUNK COLLECTIVE** wants your band to play in our town. Ehnl@hotmail.com, <http://members.tripod.com/vpc>, Box 99201/Louisville KY 40299.

.. **THE CRASSHOLE COLLECTIVE** books A.P.F. events in the Baltimore area. We're looking for political bands (of any genre) to play benefits for the APF or other causes. Gas/vegan food and space to sleep provided. If you are an organization and would like to table at one, or you'd like us to table at your event/show contact us. PO Box 73/ Odenton MD 21113.

.. **BOOKING SHOWS: WORCESTER MA.** Political HC/punk, crust, anarcho punk bands - send demo w/lyrics (if not well known). At least a month and a half in advance. Bands are fed. "The Space" has done shows for Voorhees, Drop Dead, Diskonto, etc. Contact: Chris Cane/ 104 Martin St./Douglas MA 01416-2318 for info.


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.. **BANDS NEEDED FOR TAPE COMP. SPLIT** release between Fight For Peace & Primitive Resources distro. Hardcore, punk, thrash, anarcho, grind, crust, etc. All bands will be notified. Thanks! Primitive Resources c/o Isaac/ 1965 Canyon Dr/ Hollywood CA 90068

.. **SYSTEM OVERLOAD RECORDS** is seeking hardcore and punk bands for DIY international comp. tape. Each band gets 8 1/2 by 5 1/2 in booklet Esp. interested in bands from countries where punk is a struggle (SE Asia, E. Europe, S. America) but Western bands will be considered if they are good enough. Send sample recording and lyrics for me to check out and I will write back. System Overload Records/PO Box 471/Allston MA 02134.

.. **STATIC CONTROL ZINE** needs your cool support and contributions such as poems, articles, scene reports, artwork, opinions, etc. and stuff to review! All stuff sent for review is also considered for a non-profit, no money involved distro here in our poor country. All contributors will receive a free copy. Cheap Control Distro./Rd. 2 #3 GSIS Vill/Tal. Novaliches QC/Philippines or 387 Mulawin St/ Amparo Capri/Novaliches QC/Philippines.



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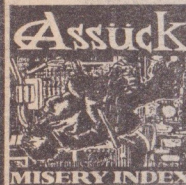
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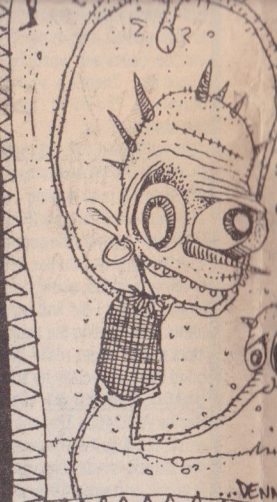
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light & chemicals - so I'd also like to hear from those with similar problems. Jay Harber/626 Paddock Lane/Libertyville IL 60048
.. **OH! SPKEY, DRUNK, POGOING CHICK.** Bored as hell. Into: The Ejected, Condemned 84, The Varukers, Discharge, The Casualties, Funeral Dress, etc. Wants to trade tapes, pix, patches, pins and other cool shit. Needs info on festivals and places to stay in summer '98 on east coast. Will respond to all. Your picture gets mine! Cheers! Amanda/94 Maxwell Cres/Saskatoon, Sask/S7L 3Y2 Canada.
.. **HELLO! ERM... I LOVE GOOD TIMES,** and having a laugh but there's also a serious side to my fun, that needs understanding, love, care, honesty, intelligence... I really dig bands like MU330, Descendents, Op Ivy, Muffs and loads of others. I love many different styles of music - ska, hardcore, punk, folk, as long as it's good. I also love writing, fanzines, art, vodka, festivals, doing interesting stuff and LIFE! C'mon and write to me if you think you'd like to get to know someone like that. I'm 15 and here's my address: Emma Thomas/8 Rose Lane/Haughton Darlington Co. Durham/DL1 2DE/UK.
.. **FEMALE, MOHICAN 26, LOOKING** to correspond with others into The Exploited, The Casualties, Filth, Germs, Vice Squad, Broken Bones, Oi Polloi, Blanks 77, Partisans, Aus Rotten and One Way System. Florida is boring the hell out of me. Send me a little excitement. Regina/115 S. Boulevard #1/Tampa FL 33606.

Vonnegut Jr., Tom Robbins, Theodore sturgeon, Bad tattoos, Earth First!, Super burritos, Howard Zinn, dogs, girls who aren't afraid to smell bad, and anyone who can send me photos. Write to Charlie Bunker #211994/Brooklyn CV/Sq. Hartford Rd./Brooklyn CT 06234.
.. **MALE PRISONER IN THE SO CALLED "LAND OF THE FREE"** looking for New England hardcore punks. I'm to correspond and possible travel upon my release on July 10, 1998. Please girls I really would love to hear from you! Jems Clemens #209492/BCI 59 Hartford Rd./Brooklyn CT 06234.
.. **23 Y.O. LONG HAIR, HELD CAPTIVE,** getting deported by "Big Brother" to Poland. Clean, level headed, intelligent anarchist, looking for contacts in Europe, and ways to contribute to the scene. I am a musician and writer. Not into playing games. Please write and you will get a response. Prefer to hear from people in Europe, girls and guys. Write to Karol Domian Imm #21866 O/Brooklyn CV/59 Hartford Rd./Brooklyn CT 06234
.. **FEM GOTHIC GAY WHITE MALE,** small framed, soft skinny wants fem gothic gay white male, tall, fat skinny, no sun tan, no pants to hug, kiss, massage, scratch, wash, wipe ass, look at, study. Hungar/9801 S. 157th Pl/Gilbert AZ 85234.
.. **HELP ME! WRITE ME!** I need outside communication! Any and all punks (esp. female) drop me a line. I will answer all letters! Into Rancid.

.. **LOST IN SOCIETY -** Looking for cool punks, gothics, or whatever. I'm not into any kind of separatism. Seek people from UK or wherever to write, trade, talk, meet up, kill, fuck, etc. Into whatever will corrupt this system and burn it down. Psycho punk from California into Subhumans, Misfits, Gwar, Blitz, letters will be answered. FruitLoad/6706 S. Sheridan/Corona CA 91720.
.. **WIZARD, WHO IS A POW OF SOCIETY** and a MIA from NYC, slowly going insane. Want to correspond with techno, ska, gothic, reggae, and old punk females out there for whatever you are interested in. Also, looking to start a circle and only those who are serious about the old ways will be accepted into the Wizard's circle. Write to: Al "Bear" To V Sanabria/92A3536 Pouch #1/Woodbourne NY 12788.
.. **20 Y.O. POOR PUNK LOOKING TO CORRESPOND WITH OTHER PUNKS!** I'm into Grimpe, Aus Rotten, Defiance, Blanks 77.



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-- **LOST DISTRO.** Hey zine editors - the 's a new distro in town. It's all DIY and for now I'm just planning to distro zines from both local (Singapore) and overseas. Please send a sample of your zine. Cougar/Blk 353 Kang Ching Rd. #08-41 Singapore 610353.

-- **NOW IN MEXICO** and still asking for stuff to distribute in this country. Bands, labels, stores and people interested, please get in touch. Any kind of support will be appreciated, donations are welcome. Remember, dollar in Mexico is very expensive. We trust your intentions and we're looking for accessible prices. Thanks so much to everyone who helped me in the US and believe in me. DIY record store to live and be in it for life. Amor y amistad, siempre... Write to: Fernando Lozano/ Apdo Postal 1946/ CP 6 4001/ Monterey NL Mexico.

-- **I'M STARTING A DISTRO** (selling stuff at shows). So if you want your stuff in the Munich/ Germany area send a sample of

Chesterfield Rd./Pittsburgh PA 15213. or call (412) 682-4120.

-- **THE PALOOKAS ARE A LITTLE OLD BAND** from Wisconsin. We play Streetpunk with a hint of Oi! Send some stamps for a demo. If you can help with an East Coast Summer tour get in touch! The Palookas/PO Box 133/New Richmond WI 54017.

-- **UNITE TO DESTROY - NEW ADDRESS.** Russ/822 E. Elm St./Lima OH 45804. Available for \$4ppd US or \$5 worldwide: Everyday Murders...United in Apathy - Columbus Ohio Food not Bombs benefit tape. Comes with booklet. Bands: Social Unrest, Godless, Disorder, Concrete Sox, Sedition, Rekt, Social Insecurity, Unhinged, Kruptd Peasant Farmers, The Grups, Resist, Litmus Green. The Availability of the Power To Destroy - Benefit tape for Slug & Lettuce w/ booklet. Bands: MassKontroll, Warpath, Seth!, Human Greed, Final Warning, Slavestate, Morbid Vomit, Victims of Tradition, Fleas & Lice, Rectify, Anarcrust, Counterblast, Black Static and Prapapration-H. This is a split release w/Your Not Normal Records c/o Sean Lambert/2835 Delaware Ave. Apt #1/Kenmore NY 19217.

-- **BELCHING TOILETS DEBUT CD IS OUT!** Sounds like GG Allin meets the Dead Kennedys. Only \$5 or trade. Surprise us. BT PO Box 203/ Swiftwater PA 18370.

-- **VIDEOS:** Doom, Nausea, ENT, Assuck, Disrupt, Man Is The Bastard, SOB, Agathocles, Dystopia, Excrement of War, Citizen Fish, Napalm

-- **OII! THE STOUTS - 1997 DEMO** is out now! 6 songs of hard-hitting, drunken Oi! ruckus! \$3ppd US or \$4ppd world. Well hidden cash in US currency only. to: The Stouts/c/o Darryl/PO Box 926/Orlando FL 32802-0926.

-- **OUTCAST'S IMPACT** has too many 7"s by Destination Records (Sweden). I'm the sole major distributor here in Asia and I can't seem to get these records out of my room. I've got Forced Into (intense political hardcore with an emo feel), and Renascence (driving emotional HC). They're yours for US \$3 (Asia) or US \$4 (world). Write to: Shaiful, Blk 554/ Bedok North St. 3/ #08-241 Singapore 460554. Singapore. Please do not write Outcasts Impact on your envelope.

-- **RECORDS NOT EXCUSES**, Noisome FaughFlight 800 7" split \$3ppd or \$4 overseas. Also wanna distro 7", 12", videos, zines. Will reply. Looking for bands for upcoming comps. Records Not Excuses/PO Box 806/ Seattle WA 98111-0806.

-- **CHAOS CORE COMPILATION CD** - 35 bands/35 songs. Detestation, Rotten Sound, Varukers, Agathocles... out now. 50ff ppd or \$10 ppd to: Yann Verdalle/2 les Hauts de Beychac/ 33750 Beychac Et Caillau France. Cash only. Bands wanted for next compilation.

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-- **LOOKING FOR...** Early demos, live and rehearsal tapes from classic thrash/death bands such as Exodus, Slayer, Death, Sepultura, Obituary, Celtic Frost, Possessed, Kreator, etc. Please help - this is a question of life and death! Jonne Kauko/Riihitie 7 D 4/33800 Tampere Finland.

-- **LOOKING FOR VIDEO TRADES,** patches, stickers, whatever of hardcore power violence grind crust punk. I will trade Australian videos, 7"eps. Send now. NO rip offs. Videos of Assuck, C. Casualties, Spazz, Drop Dead, DK, Hiatus, Avail, etc. NO racist or sexist homophobic bands. Send now and I'll send you a video in return. Leigh Julian/2 Clematis Court/Meadow Heights/Melbourne Victoria/Australia 3048.

-- **NIHILIST FIST** is looking for any upcoming comps or zine interviews. We have dual vocals, with a girl singer on 1 track. We're

write. C/O Humar Larranco/938 Mindoro St/ Sampaloc Manila Philippines.

-- **AGREE TO DISAGREE #4 OUT NOW!** We have interviews w/ Anti-Flag, UK Subs, Another Joe and Reset. As well as articles on Nato on Notice, Bear Watch, Illegal Teak and a France scene report. Even 15 pages of good quality columns. 64 pages in all! 2 bucks ppd. (\$3 world). Agree to Disagree/Box 56057 1st Ave PO/Vancouver BC V5L 5E2/Canada.

-- **YOUNG MASTURBATORS ZINE.** Send \$1 for issue #1. Contributors get a free copy! Send to Resident/7330 Autumn Rd. SW/Carrollton OH 44615.

-- **UPHEAVAL PUNXZINE #2 AVAILABLE NOW.** Includes intvs w/ Mrtva Budoucnost (Czech Rep), Dead America (USA), Dismachine (Sweden), IRA (Colombia), and Shock Troop (Austria). Also, lots of underground emos reviews and some eps and lps too. A couple zine reviews, lots of punky artwork, nice quality live band photos, Serbian scene reports and slew of essays and columns. You can get all 44 pages of total hardcore punk enlightenment for \$1 N. America and \$2 world. Upheaval/PO Box 471/Allston MA 02134.

at ABC a long time ago and thought they were good then - but they seem to have found their element even more now and have gotten quite a following with the hardcore scene - as they should - this is awesome! (Coalition/PO Box 243/6500 Ae Nijmegen/The Netherlands and Teamwork Records/PO Box 4473/Wayne NJ 07474)

* **A.O.B - STOP TO SORROW LP** This is awesome heavy political punk rock from Germany. It is on the tip of my tongue who they remind me of but I just can't place it (frustrating). Definitely a strong UK punk influences by the likes of Icons of Filth and Amebix with some of the later era doom-metal punk stuff too. They've got a nice mix of tempos and speeds with some reggae breakdowns (but not too much) it makes it all have a really good flow and it's right up my alley. Also a very strong political stance and excellent lyrics and statements. Awesome! (Ruin Nation Records/Stefan Willenborg/Vossberger Ring 54/49393 Lohne/Germany)

ABALIENATION - BOOZE & BRACES 7" Good straight forward 80s style hardcore here... and they've got some soul. Kinda like older Poison Idea, know what I mean? Grew on me. (Beer City/PO Box 26035/Milw. WI 53226-0035) (-Gabe)

ABRAXAS VAKALIEN - ST 7" It's the records like this that make me hate doing reviews cause this is okay - in fact it's quite fine. I just don't

Sven Bock/Gartnerstr. 23/47055/Duisburg Germany)

AGATHOCLES/EXCRUCIATING TERROR Split 7" It's funny how some of this death metal stuff can still be so associated with the punk scene - but Agathocles seems to have always been lingering out the outskirts. At anyrate - Agathocles have these extreme vocals that are distorted and ultra deep - in a cliché way that one would imitate when thinking of this kind of thing. And they trash and grind and play blast beat drums and besides being ridiculous - it's actually pretty good. I don't like Excruciating Terror nearly as much. Again - an extreme version of grindcore with super deep throated vocals - from the high to low extreme and throbbing blast beat and slow grinding music. Their recording sounds thin and compressed which doesn't do it justice either. (Pessimiser Theologian)

AKTIFIST - Demo tape & Live A good demo tape is such a wonderful (unfortunately rare) treat! From the start - thanks to the orderly and nice graphic layout. Some people probably don't even know that I am a big lover of that old UK Punk & Disorderly style of punk - especially with a good strong female singer. And that is just what this is - a pogo punk band with a bouncing pogo beat and awesome strong female vocals - which really do it for me! They're from Scotland. Some lyrics are serious - animal rights kinda stuff,

definitely not the majors.

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with a strong rock out quality. I was thinking of Minor Threat quite a lot and then they did a cover of Minor Threat. They've got a good sound that draws on those roots and at times sounds akin to that era of hardcore, and also has a good strong style of it's own that rocks. Yeah - a good one. I've had this tape for awhile - so perhaps there is newer material. (c/o Tony Dolvin/5207 Iroquois St./College Park MD 20740)

BLASTER THE ROCKET BOY - SUCCULENT SPACE FOOD FOR TEETHING VAMPIRES CD OK, let it be known that Chris often gives me stuff to review that's too weird for her to hack, so if you're looking for lots of great anarcho-peace punk with dual sing-a-long vocals and grinding metal intensity, you're probably not gonna find it in my review section! That now laid bare for all to see, on with some serious weirdness. This is wacked out Misfits B-movie Man-or-Astroman at a high speed stuff with heavily Christian lyrics and info which they are apparently quite serious about (?) - and it mixes in with the monster movie lyrics in the oddest ways. And check these out: "she tried her lighter inside her x-wing fighter - it never shed any light on my sister - yeah, I kissed her - but princess leigha was a skywalker - yeah - chewbacca was a rocka." and it goes on and on! This is some of the weirdest shit ever - in the best of ways

this some months ago when I first heard it and was fully captivated with yet another favorite. But just in case I didn't - this band rocks! I mean they really fucking rock! They're totally heavy - with a full powerful - knock your head off sound. The mix of hardcore and metal is perfect. This is one that I listen to repetitively and love every minute!! (Edison Recordings/ PO Box 42586/ Philadelphia PA 19101-2586)

*** COMBAT SHOCK - WISHFUL DRINKING CD** Awesome classic UK Punk - with a punchy pogo beat - and a really good full sound. They've got a great female singer who has a deep tough voice that is awesome. In addition to this being really fucking good fast pogo punk - they've also got a distinct peace punk style mixed in which gives this the perfect twist. And the best part of all is that it's not simple and basic stuff - but rather really good, full sounding all around awesome - and that makes this really stand out. This is one to remind me how much I love the old UK Punk sound and style. Fuck yeah!! (Bomb Factory Records/PO Box 21/ Tenterden, Kent TN30 7ZZ/UK)

CONGRESS - BLACKENED PERSISTANCE CD So with my new obsession with sXe metal hardcore - I've heard a lot about Congress and had high expectations. I wasn't quite as blown away as I expected (perhaps due to those high expectations) but I do really like this a lot. They're probably more metal than hardcore - this is pretty damn metal.

a nice balance of the two. Right now I'm getting kind of ska - but this is still really good. (AC Vitor/R. Paulo Barreto 28101/Botafogo, Rio de Janeiro/ RJ cep 22280-010/ Brazil)

CRUNCH - BUBBA BUBBA BUBBA! LP While this full color cartoon cover does absolutely nothing for me - this is a good record of blazing Italian hardcore. This is straight-forward, fast and tight, high speed and high energy stuff. Reminds me a bit of Los Crudos (Italian and Spanish have their similarities) - if Los Crudos had longer songs. (Clean Plate/ PO Box 0709/ Hampshire College/ Amherst MA 01002)

DEAD LAZLO'S PLACE - S/T 7" This is a weird name and a non-catchy cover, so I kinda overlooked this for awhile - but this is really good power pop punk as Fearless usually delivers. They've got a strong uptight galloping beat and harmonic sing-songy vocals overlapping with each other - creating a really catchy and good sound! (Fearless Records)

DEFORMITY - MISANTHROPE CD Another case of metal-hardcore tipping a bit more towards the metal side, the death metal side. I've grown real fond of this lately having listened to it a lot. It's powerful and heavy with a full sound: deep throated vocals, power in crunch and speed, technical guitars - basically the works - but it rocks. And as metal as it is, they haven't forgotten hardcore either. (Good Life

catchy stuff that gives my skin tingles. **Sanctus luda** are from Poland (as is this release). For the most part their sound is of a harsher dirty punk style. But they've also got a catchy chorusey Oi-Punk style as well. A good split! (Dwie Strony Medalu/ PO Box 55/ 58-260 Bielawa Poland)

DPW - IN THE NAME OF GOD CD Wow - this is great and it's totally grown on me. Fast and tight hardcore with a really catchy style and some variety - as in a bit of jazz breakdowns, ska upbeats, and other odd bits. Good lyrics. I can feel a little bit of that 2.5 Children and Control thing. This is a truly diy release that doesn't have the aspirations to feel like a "music industry product" - which is nice. (DPW/ PO Box 203/ Wayne PA 19087)

DROPPING LIKE FLIES - Tape Demo tapes are an excellent cheap way to get your band heard - however when they are done really budge without any info on the band - things like song titles - well it's kinda lame. This is a short tape - decent sound - basic hardcore thrashing punk with really deep vocals that are kinda off from the music. I don't really care for it. (\$2/ Beaten Blind Records/ PO Box 926/ Orlando FL 32802-0926)

ENVY/ SIXPENCE Split 7" Envy is from Japan but they sound very American. Their sound is straight-forward powerful hardcore with

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RECORD REVIEWS

raw abrasive vocals and a discordant emo guitar sound. **Sixpence** are from Denmark. They kinda pick up where Envy leaves off - and go even further with the raw vocals and discordant emo guitars. The vocals have a shrill sound that make it hard to listen to. (HG Fact)

EXCESSIVE DEFINACE - 7" A DIY debut vinyl that is more like a demo tape. It's decent punk rock with a range of styles - basically it's a blend of basic pogo beat Oi-Punk. I commend the effort but it seems that not much time was put into the layout and it only presents a bad sense of humor. (Rob The Rich/ 36 Nathan Dr/ Fletcher NC 28732)

EXECRADORES - TAPE Quite a range of stuff here, almost feels like a compilation, but it's not. Classic fast anarchist hardcore punk (so many key words!), with lots of speed and style changes. But the best part is, they really got the old style mosh part down! Some weird instruments too. Good recording. Excellent! Vocals in Portuguese I assume (from Brazil) and in fact it reminds me a little of Acao Direta. Now I'm not trying to name drop obscure band references to prove my old school-ability or some crap, but they're also a band from Brazil that Chris and I like a lot and who are also original and interesting and really good, and have been reviewed in various S&Ls so you faithful readers can cross-reference in your back collections. I'll shut up now. (PO Box 225421/ 04744-970 Sao Paulo/ Brazil) (-Gabe)

FARCICAL - \$T 7" With a long melodic intro - this bursts into a heavy powerful and punchy kinda thing with layered multiple vocals. It reminds me a bit of Kilara at it's heightened rock-out parts. Also a lot of discordant guitars and emo/power combos. (Thought Crime/ Jens Walter/ Petersburger Str. 68/ 10249 Berlin Germany)

FAT DAY - BURREGA! LP I swear the last time I heard Fat Day they were doing pop punk - but this is a far cry from that. This is noise. And it's just plain bad. I spent awhile trying to figure out it 33 or 45 was better - neither of which is. I settled for faster - which is spastic manic frantic high end thrashing noise that grates on my nerves and is rendered unlistenable. (\$5ppd/ 100% Breakfast/ PO Box 381804/ Cambridge MA 02238)

FRUITY - ROCKY COLT AND TUM TUM 7" Poppy silly ska punk, I guess if the Descendents and All popped songs through the Voodoo Glow Skulls (without horns) song grinder, you'd have this Japanese band right here. 4 songs. (Far Out Records/ PO Box 14361/ Ft. Lauderdale FL 33302) (-Gabe)

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**** GEHENNA - THE WAR OF THE SONS OF LIGHT AND THE SUNS OF DARKNESS CD** I have listened to this CD numerous times, never quite finding the words to describe it. After so many listens, I've come to really like this an enormous amount. They play a heavy hardcore style with discordant guitars, growling rolling vocals and a touch of Slayer style metal. They also fall into the realm of crust-core punk as much as they meet the metal hardcore world. In the end they maintain enough of their own style and sound to keep from easily falling into any sort of simple category, yet having enough diversity to be totally enamoring and interesting. And all in all - I like this a lot! I just feel like I'm missing some comparison or description of what they remind me of, yet I can never seem to put my finger on it. It leaves them with sort of a mystery - especially

gothic twinge. (PO Box 1414/ Burlington MA 01803)

GUILT - BARDSTOWN UGLY BOX Tape A Victory Hardcore band that borders on being more of a rock band. Not my cup of tea. The hard and punchy core of it has an odd funky style that I don't really like and



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like I said - it reeks of crossing over into a more rock radio kind of audience - in a way that I don't care for. (Victory Records)

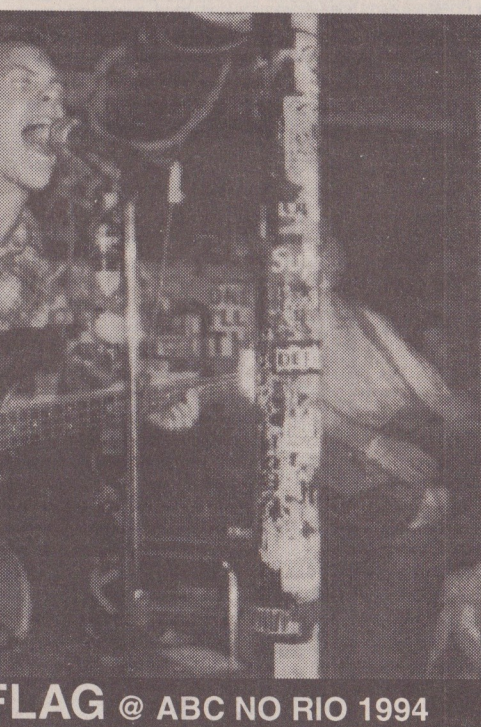
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**** HAIL MARY**

on what I liked about Born Against (soundwise) and running with it. How about power emo? I love it! (Prank/ PO Box 410892/ SF CA 94141-0892)

*** HAND TO MOUTH - ECOGIRL 7"** This is a rad band and I'm kinda embarrassed that I've had these records as long as I have (months) and not reviewed them - and for no real reason. This band is good!! They have intensely strong political lyrics which they also explain - and it



comes across really well and not prechy. They have a pop-punk hardcore style that mixes up all the elements really well - they've got a really positive energy, upbeat style and catchy beats. They remind me of Leatherface a bit - vocals and style. Here's a band that still has the energy and enthusiasm to hold onto their beliefs and share them - and that is so very good to see!! Check out this band - they rock in all ways. (Lower Class Records/ 401 W. Springfield Apt. A/ Urbana IL 61801)

*** HAND TO MOUTH / MARY**

hardcore edge - which makes them really good all around in my opinion. (Take Out the Trash Records/ PO Box 541/ Normal IL 61761)

***** HATEBREED - SATISFACTION IS THE DEATH OF DESIRE CD**

Since the first time I stumbled upon this band at CBGBs I have been hooked. I watched them from the back - where I could watch the drummer and his brutal assault of the double bass drums - which is one of my favorite things. And since then I've eagerly sought after anything and everything I could hear - which hasn't been too much. So in my eyes this full length release is a long time in coming and it absolutely rocks!! I love this sound and style - which is brutal and powerful hardcore metal with tons of punch and kick. The throbbing double bass still backs the galloping strength and power while every last part falls into place - the sound is full and awesome - and it all is perfect! Powerful rock-out with chugga chugga judd judd heavy power. Fuck yeah! (Victory Records)

HEADS KICKED OFF - \$T 7" Awesome heavy duty crust punk. It's powerful with a strong kick in the ass style. Fast and furious with gruff vocals. Awesome power and speed!! (\$6 US ppd/ Spiral Objective/ PO Box 126/ Oaklands Park/ South Australia 5046)

HELLNATION - AT WAR WITH EMO 5" This is the first time I've ever been able to listen to a 5" record. Pretty cool. Hellnation do their Hellnation thing - which is to brutalize your ear drums. In Slap-A-Ham Blurrig fashion - they rip through 8 songs on the smallest piece of vinyl you can get. It's manic thrashing blast beat driven mayhem if there ever was such a thing. Not my thing, but I love them none the less. (Slap A Ham/ PO Box 420843/ San Francisco CA 94142-0843)

***** HIS HERO IS GONE - MONUMENTS TO THIEVES CD** This is absolutely fucking beautiful! Okay, beautiful will probably be an odd word - but awesome, rad, cool, brilliant - whatever positive adjective for being excited - this is perfect - therefore beautiful. First of all the bass sound is so deep and heavy that it just throbs warbles and pounds from deep inside - and that is an awesome foundation upon which all the rest of these complexities and layers are built. This band rocks to the gills! They've got an eerie evil sound amongst the layered power. The vocals are deep rough and growling. The guitars are powerful and light and airy at the same time. All of it weaves together and it is spinetingling and skin crawling and mystical and it moves me - very deeply. It is such a rare thing for me to listen to something that absolutely captivates me: stops me dead in my tracks from all that I'm doing and mesmerizes me to a point of closing my eyes and just listening. That is what this did. It's beautiful. It rocks. And I fucking love it!! (Prank/ PO Box 410892/ SF CA 94141-8092)

***** HUMAN INVESTMENT - INVEST YOUR EFFORTS INTO HUMANITY'S STRUGGLE 12"** This rules!! With Dave from Aus Rotten on vocals and Andy x-Anti Flag on bass and vocal harmonies - both styles are distinct and clear and form something new together. At times hard driving punk and at times a discordant grating blend of guitars, sometimes a more melodic style and always a strong bubbling bass. All in all it reminds me of something inspired by the politics of Crass (and the issues and ideas are a strong part here) with a mix of emo-hardcore. It's awesome and also comes with a huge poster. I really love the whole thing here - the variety of styles and the ideas and words behind it. My favorite parts are the total vocal harmonies and the songs that totally let go and have the furious energy that makes me crazy. This is great stuff!! (Rotten Propaganda/ PO Box 42325/ Pittsburgh PA 15203)

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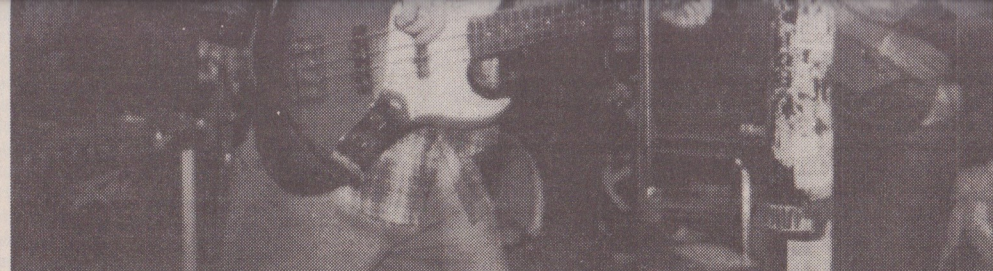
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INWARD - ZEIT ZUM TRAUMEN 10" This is awesome - heavy and powerful explosive hardcore crossed with metal. It's got a very full and layered powerful sound, with that traveling kinda guitar that weaves all over and blazing and blaring vocals. It all rocks! The comparisons and similarities that come to mind are Coalesce, His Hero and the French Canadian discordant style. That should paint

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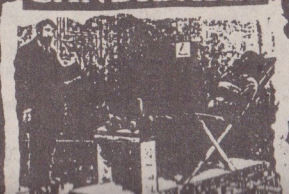
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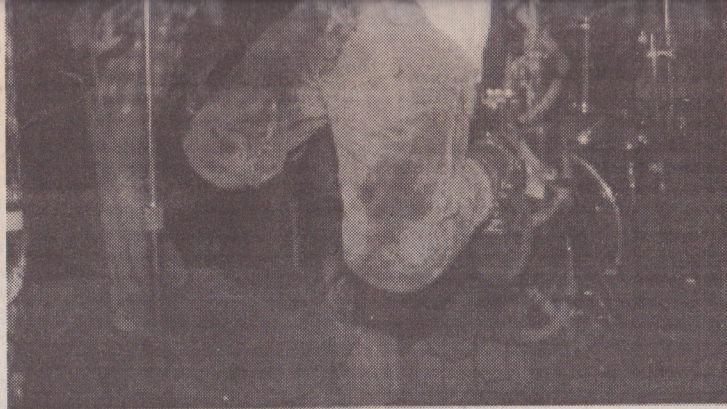
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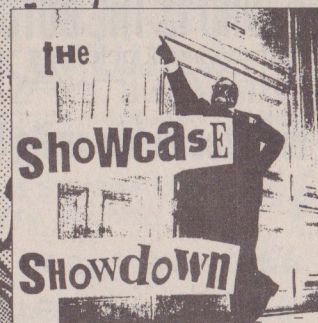
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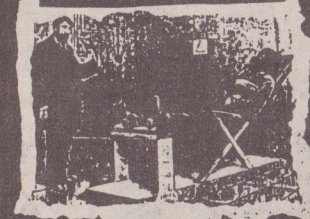
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yet punchy drum beat with discordant power and rough screamed vocals. And there's a nice layout too. (BCB Records/ 5006 B. Grover/ Austin TX 78756-2630)

MELT-BANANA 7" When Fly went to Japan with GodCo - she came back raving about this band Melt Banana. In fact she had drawings she had done of them (she draws bands while they play, rather than taking pictures w/ a camera!!) and she had a particular fascination with the fact that the bass was about the same size as the girl who played it. So I was shocked to see Fly's artwork on this cover. However, this just isn't my thing at all. It's got an industrial experimental sound - wacked and weird and I can't hack it. (Slap A Ham/ PO Box 420843/ SF Ca 94142-0843)

**** MILHOUSE - OBSCENITY IN THE MILK CD** One of the things that I miss most about NYC is seeing Milhouse on a regular basis - they're one of my favorites and one of the best bands in the area. This new full length release came as a surprise - an excited one. They absolutely rock! Maintaining the manic insanity and urgency of the brutal style of hardcore they play with completely grating discordant guitars, that is a powerful and emotional explosion. This is the best that I've heard yet - it is somehow even more complete and full and doesn't leave me with that "Oh, I love them, but I'd

it on the sidelines, at times reading in-depth information or watching a special program on TV. And because in the community in which I live the death row sentence of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal is such a significant un-just case - I often assume that everyone else in the world knows about it, and I wonder why everyone can't see the injustice of it. Listening to Mumia's intelligent well-spoken words, which are taken from his death row radio broadcast, I am reminded why the government wants to silence him - because he truly has the ability to spread the truth: not only of his mistreatment on the hands of the Philadelphia police, but also of the corrupt justice system in the United States. Mumia's journalist and activist knowledge is so right on - that it is a threat to the "system", therefore the "system" wants to keep him quiet. It's really frightening, and every time I read his words or hear his voice, I am horrified at the atrocity of his sentence to death and it makes me want to single-handedly fight the injustice. His case is one that everyone should know about - and everyone should fight for - because it is clearly WRONG! I'm so glad to see Alternative Tentacles bringing something like this to light. With the popularity of Man Is The Bastard - hopefully more people will be brought to awareness. And this is awesome because the spoken word from Mumia is not only related to his personal political imprisonment - but covers much much more of

too many words for the music which sounds kinda awkward, but it also reminds me a lot of an old HC style. This is a good band - and yet there is still room for them to get even better. (Straight Force Records/ 49 Cresdale Rd/ Glastonbury CT 06033)

***** NOAM CHOMSKY - FREE MARKET FANTASIES CD** Another total ass-kicker here! A 56 minute talk from '96... this lecture has lots of practical examples and great facts for the cynical and critical... and is both concise and quickly moving - in other words, TONS of information is squeezed in. Kinda like reading through the stuff in a DK record, in terms of ideas and realizations, only far more direct, focused, applicable and complete - and lacks the shock value factor - which is of course no needed as the simple plain reality of how extensive corporate control has gotten worldwide is quite gruesome enough on it's own. This is for anyone who's got the gut feeling or general idea of what's fucked up, and what's to flesh the thought out with some definite information, and intelligent analysis of the twisted media confusion that's broadcast everywhere. Probably the best interpreter of doublespeak around, and not too sophisticated or intellectual for any but the drunkest to understand. The title is the subject matter of this one - theory vs. reality/ school textbook version vs. trying to get some crapola job out there. "Politics is the shadow cast by big business,"

with the word and material on Abu (all other bands Broken Rekids has re-released). They are without a doubt a political punk band (the activist politics of which are now in part put into the efforts of AK Press). At anyrate - accompanying those ideas they play a rather melodic almost gothic mixed with new wave style - which is catchy and really damn good. I'm glad to be re-reminded about this band. (Broken Rekids)

RADIKALNA PROMJENA - Tape This is a really good one from Croatia. I was instantly attracted to the sorta folkey beginning and then I was continually held by the fact that this rocks. They've got a good full sound - with a hard driving power, a lot of (good) guitar leads that go with the metallic style - and it still has a strong punk feeling and style. It's a good full layered and complex sound. Kinda reminds me of some European crust-metal-punk bands who's names I can't but my finger on right now. All in all though - this is awesome! (Ladranko Kerekovic/ Savska 1556/ 10000 Zagreb/ Croatia)

REDLIGHT - 5T 7" This is a hard one to categorize. It reminds me of apocalyptic post-punk that draws on a heavy power - the Amebix vs. Zygo come to mind. It's got a powerful hard rockin' style with strong guitars and clear Polish sung vocals that add a harsh force. It's slightly off beat, with some slower parts that rely on the guitars



MUCKSPREADER - Dumbstruck E.P.
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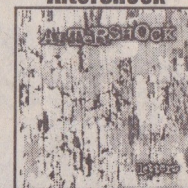
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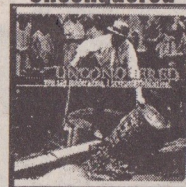
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on that discharge foundation that is actually more... and later UK punk meets Swedish hardcore. Good stuff!! (Merwi Records c/o Jonte Ekman/PO Box 53/15141 Lahti/Finland)

*** SHOULDER/MORNING AGAIN Split 7"** I picked this up in Canada from Shoulder right around the time that **Morning Again** was becoming a favorite band. I raved about them in the last issue - for their awesome metal-hardcore power mix. Their couple songs on here lean more toward the metal side - but I still love it. **Shoulder** are emo-hardcore with an emphasis on the melodic. These songs have more kick to them than the downbeat melodies on the full-length CD, and though I liked that release - I think I like these songs even better. (Shoulder/PO Box 43022/London, Ontario/N6C 6B2/Canada)

SID VISHNU - Demo Tape I'm not sure where this is front - but it's a good tape of political hardcore punk. The music is really good - fast and tight - straight-forward stuff with a lot of punch. The lyrics are good as well - covering animal rights to global borders. (Sid Vishnu/PO Box 4511/Palmerston North/Aotearoa)

SLOW SIDE DOWN - IMPRACTICAL STRATEGIES 7" With the gold overprinting and the brown paper - I was expecting some emo hardcore and that is just what I got. Emo Hardcore of the

STRIPED BASSTARDS - LESSONS LEARNED 7" Energetic pop punk with snotty high whiney vocals. While this kinda thing usually doesn't do much for me, this is still pretty good. The Freeze cover was good. The attempt at grindcore was ridiculous. (Mother Box Records/60 Denton Ave/E. Rockaway NY 11518)

SUBJUGATED - UP THE PUNK! 7" Thrashing fast hardcore punk. Fronted by gruff vocals that have catchy choruses. All around this is full of a powerful tempo and a hard rockin' style due mostly to a strong guitar line which does some weird wanky leads throughout the background. I can totally picture being at a show with this band - either at the beer olympics or at ABC - and it would be full of drunken mayhem and pogo chaos! (Beer City/PO Box 26035/Milwaukee WI 53226-0035)

***** SUBMISSION HOLD - PROGRESS Tape** I love Submission Hold!!

***** TERMINAL DISGUIST - THE PRICE OF WAR LP** This is fantastic and amazing and makes me completely happy. Just when I might think that the link with those involved in the peace/punk world is dying - a great record like this comes my way and I'm reminded that there is still a strong link to those link minded folks. I've listened to this record so many times and the easy words to describe it have not come - simply cause it's not easy to categorize - but the very fact that I love to listen to it so much makes it rock. Okay, basically I would call this crust punk - with deep vocals and a grinding heaviness that is also mixed with a much lighter straight forward style of punk. The blend and mix is great and creates something that is catchy and powerful at the same time. And all I can picture is the first time I heard this when I was in Austin at Jack's house with all these amazing punks and it felt like I had found a punk utopia that I could have stayed in forever, but I had to instead high-tail it in the middle of the night onwards west through the desert. None the less - I remember those people and this band and record and all of it very fondly. This rocks! (Mind Control Records/1012 Brodie St/Austin TX 89704)

THE BRISTLES - LIFESTYLES OF THE POOR & UNKNOWN LP In the past I've had a decreasing interest in this band - not really liking what

good songs. Much like Action Pact - they've got a fairly high-pitched female singer (actually two of them on most of it) that I love. Musically this is simple and basic straight forward clean pogo punchy beat punk rock - they '77 style early UK stuff. In this case raw and basic are good things - it's like a no frills energetic rock out - and I love it! (Broken Rekids)

THE NOTHINGS - GREATEST MISSES 7" Punk rock on the raunchy side. Gruff vocals and a deep tonation. The artwork with a bondage chick with a crucifix up her ass and beer bottles and heroin needles, leaves something to be desired and kinda sets the tone for me - that being a negative one. Besides having a dirty muddled distorted sound - there is also a clean rockin' guitar sound. I'll pass. (DickMo Tonio Records/47 Pearl St/N. Weymouth MA 02191)

THE PALOOKAS - THE FALL BRAWL Demo Tape This sounds like a muddled and distorted live recording. This is pretty good catchy basic pogo oi-punk rock - with generic song titles like: "Smash the State", "On The Streets", "Punk Rock Girls", "Drink Drink Drink" "Police Cunt" ... you get the idea. A better recording could definitely help out - I can see some potential. Like the Casualties a few years ago. (The Palookas/PO Box 133/New Richmond WI

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crust punk band, plus Intifada, Everswelch - power thrash, Gob - heavy throbing sound and Bristle from Seattle. It sucks to try and sum a band up in a word or two - sorry. Food Not Bombs is a good organization that feeds hungry people veggie food and they always deserve support and help. (Six Weeks/225 Lincoln Ave./Cotati CA 94931)

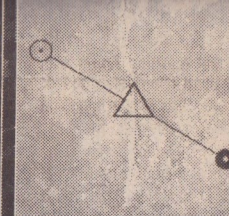
va ANOTHER PROBE 7" WITH A GIRL ON THE COVER 7" There's a cool variety of weirdness on here.... Charles Bronson, Fuckface, Your Mother, Plaight, and Yogurt. One side is rockin raw and fast punk, tha tsomehow felt kinda like listening to a Fang record; and B is sick musical storytelling by Yogurt. It all has a cool old sound to it, and fits together. Good record. And yes there's quite a handsome hairy tattooed girl on the cover (and the back). (Probe Records/PO Box 5068/Pleasanton CA 94566) (-Gabe)

va DEFINITELY NOT THE MAJORS - CD COMP. I knew when I first saw a flyer for this comp. that it was gonna be a gem, simply cause it's got Bloodlet, Coalesce, Ascension, Gehenna, Sons of Abraham, Catharsis, Pay Neuter, Earthmover and Indecision - all good heavy hardcore-metal bands. There are also tracks from IDK (who are much poppier), Backlash, Buzzkill (who are really rock), Nora,

va THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW CD New school covering old school sort of thig here, you know Propagandhi covers NOFX, Rancid covers Op Ivy... Ha Ha. No. This is a '97 punk bands covering '77 punk, maybe not the most original idea by now, but this is a pretty good one. It sticks strictly to 1977, and represents some of the tons of under-rated and lesser known bands from then: Radio Birdman & Killjoys sorts, which is great. Plus there's 97 tracks listed. 17 covers by upbeat catchy rockin' kinds of punk bands... Moral Crux, Showcase Show-down, Sloppy Seconds, Quincy Punx, etc. Violent Society does a really good Eater song, and Boris the Sprinker a good Saints... Pretty straight forward covers mostly. Put together by Joey Vindictive. (VML Records/PO Box 183/Franklin Park IL 60131) (-Gabe)

VKTMS - CD Resurrected old California punk with a rad female singer. While the music is more blended and more rock that the '77 style pogo punk - I'm not sure how to describe this. The distinct part and what I like are the vocals which are clearly sung and projected and rather operatic - she rocks. Interesting lyrics too. There are a lot of rock out jams though which I could do without. This contains an LP recorded in 81 and an ep from more recent when they reformed in SF. (Broken

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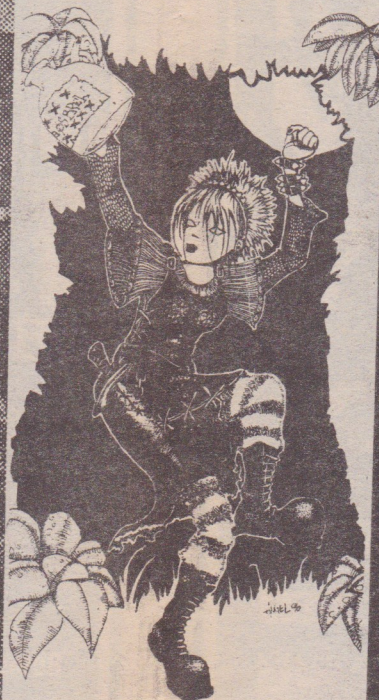
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and get the mail done more timely and write letters to friends I haven't had the time or focus for in a long while and that has been good.

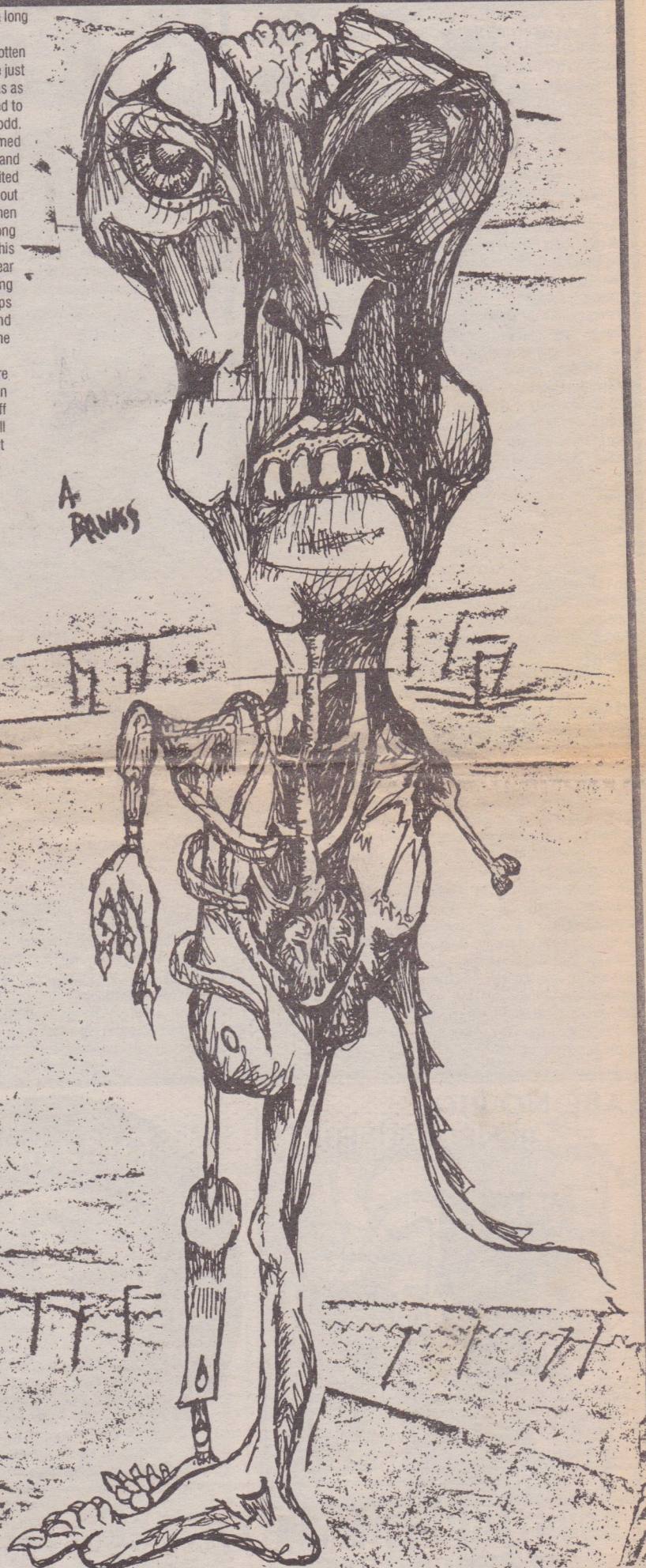
There have been a few shows that have been really awesome. The Stratford Mercenaries and Aus Rotten came to Richmond on November 19th along with Neil and the Tribal War Distro. I managed to get there just in time (having to run out of my work early, phew!) and it was such an intense rush of craziness. It was as if my "home" had come to me - finally. I came to the weird realization that night that if I hadn't moved to Richmond, I would have been in Richmond that night anyway - in the midst of a tour. That was kinda odd. But I didn't have any regrets about it. It was awesome to see such a "punk punk" audience - and it seemed that most of the kids weren't actually from around here. A lot of folks traveled from Philly and Baltimore and usually happens at the raddest of shows - there were people from all over the place and I was so excited to see old friends and meet a few people I'd never met, that the whole night was a spastic rush about oriented contexts and chaos in the best manner. It's the kind of night that goes by in a frenzy and then at the end of it all - you ask yourself what happened - and why don't I feel like I had a really good long conversation with any of the 10 or 20 people I would have liked to talk to individually all night long? This was the first time that I actually got to see the Stratford Mercenaries, having missed them earlier this year and it was very heart moving to hear "Big A Little A" from the mouth of it's originator. And likewise hearing "The Disaster" from Aus Rotten with both Steve and Neil joining in - was pretty cool as well. But perhaps the best was the disco dancing from Gary and Steve at the end of the night. All told - it was a blast and we celebrated with the vegan Chinese and some vegan pumpkin pie. And my heart soared to feel the company of good friends in my new little abode.

I went up to Baltimore recently for the first time. It is hard to believe that I have never ever been there though I have driven through at least 50 times - I've never stopped or attended a show. So when Sean Goblin and Angel told me their band A/Political was playing with Anti-Product and it was on my day off I decided it was high time to get up there and get a good dose of my beloved punk rock. It was a small show - but still very cool. It was in a hall and it had that cool atmosphere of a convention - where just about everyone had a table set up - either with information (IWW Party or Animal Rights) or zines, records, tapes and patches for sale. Food Not Bombs had food to eat and there were some political oriented movies to watch. I thought that it was cool to have so much more than just bands - and it made me wonder if people would come to such a gathering if you called it a convention and didn't have bands. Probably not. But I don't think that anyone would disagree that those aspects are the very things that make it all worthwhile. It's been a long time since I've seen Anti Product. In fact I can't actually remember when I last saw them - but it was at least a year ago. So that was very cool - they were amazingly awesome - super tight and full of the frenzied energy. I still love the way they initiate a dialog about their ideas. They remind me more and more of Nausea - and that too makes my heart soar. It is still a favorite thing of mine to just show up at a show where I have friends who wouldn't expect me to be in that particular place - it's a very cool feeling.

From Ashes Rise were set to play a house show in December and I was all excited about seeing them again and expecting a really good show - only to find that highly disappointing thing that happens where the show consists of the two traveling bands, the person who set up the show and 2 people who live in the house with like 3 people who actually came just to see that bands. That sucks so bad. It reminds me of the worst days at ABC NO RIO. And it is the very thing that makes you say - why the fuck is it so hard to come and support a show? I just feel bad for the touring bands in cases like that. I've been on both ends and I know it just plain sucks. Most of all it is disappointing and disheartening. House shows are really the best and most ultimate means for holding a punk show. Obviously size limitations and a chaos factor can be a problem. But for the most part - when people are respectful and the attendance is generally going to be manageable - it's the perfect means. And it sucks that the perfect outlet is then totally unsupported. Why? I'm not only making a case about this particular show - I'm thinking in general of these unattended small shows that are usually the coolest shows of all. They are usually the ones where in 3-4 years when a band gets really popular and cool you can remember seeing them in a tiny basement when only 3 people came to see them. Ha. Well anyway... I've been getting a decent dose of punk rock into my bloodstream and it's felt good.

A new year has come, and it doesn't really feel like a big deal I normally like to make of such an occasion. Time has become so weird. For the past year I've felt like "last year" was what was really two years ago. Somewhere along the line things have started to blend together and the years are indistinguishable. They say the older you get the faster time goes and I think that might be true. At least you have more experiences to remember and categorize and keep track of in your memory and it all runs together. But the occasion of a new year is a good time to start focusing on new projects and things and that is where my head is at. Like I said, I'm adjusting to Richmond, but I seldom go out and do social things. Consequently I find that every time I do - it feels surreal. I find myself in the midst of something and I lose my bearings on where I am, where I live and all of those contextual things. It's kinda odd. It's at those times that all of the places I've been in the past couple years sorta sweep past me and float all around me at the same time. I'm not sure if that means I should get out more often or what. But, it is winter - which is a good time for nurturing oneself and staying home - drinking hot drinks and curling up in a warm and comfortable place and reading a good book and that is what I've been doing. I'm really into the library. I'm into books period. I fight this constant battle with myself over books. I frequent bookstores knowing full well I can't afford to buy books. But then I do anyway - as if I can't control myself and I fully justify it at the same time. I alternate between the library which could sustain me endlessly, yet I also can't stay away from bookstores. Between the two - I try to find a balance - by writing down the book titles in the bookstore and finding out if the library has it (and it usually seems to

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